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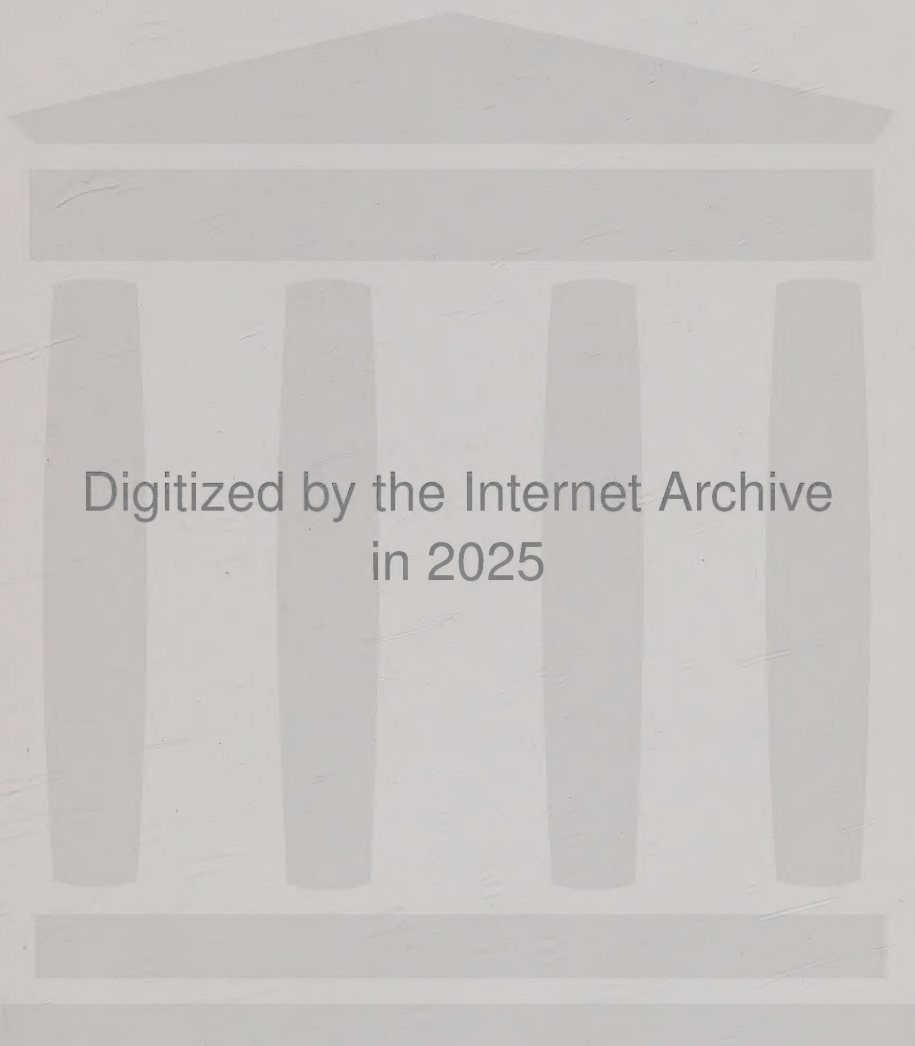
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MASON LOCKE WEEMS

LETTERS

1810-1825



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BELLE AIR, PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN 1899
After a pen drawing by M. Louisa Stuart

Mason Locke Weems

His Works and Ways

IN THREE VOLUMES

LETTERS

1784-1825

Edited By

EMILY ELLSWORTH FORD SKEEL

VOLUME III

NEW YORK

MCMXXIX

Printed in the United States of America

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• Emily • E • F • Skeel •

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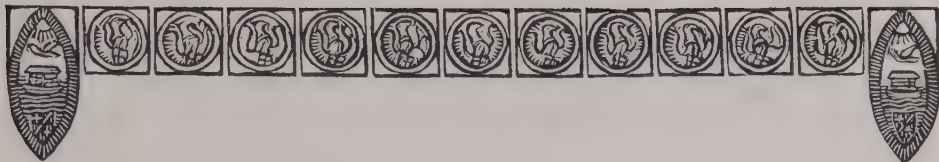
THE ESTIMATES OF OTHERS UPON A MAN ARE MORE APT TO REVEAL THEIR OWN NATURE THAN HIS. — *Spinoza*.

DEFICIENT AS HE IS IN EVERY QUALIFICATION OF A GOOD HISTORIAN, HIS LOCAL INFORMATION, HIS PASSIONS, AND HIS PREJUDICES ARE STRONGLY EXPRESSIVE OF A NATIVE AND CONTEMPORARY. — *Edward Gibbon*.

THE MAN IS ONLY HALF HIMSELF, THE OTHER HALF IS HIS EXPRESSION. — *Ralph Waldo Emerson*.



Those Gentlemen who feel a wish to aid
by their subscriptions, the publication
of that singularly Entertaining, Instructive
and Moralizing Work -
"The Life of Washington -"
are hereby informed that a Subscription
Book is opened at the Tavern of Mr.
Sam. Chandler - by M. L. Weems.
April 22. 1863.



LETTERS

To be good is noble, but to teach others to be good is nobler — and less trouble. — MARK TWAIN.

L. & F. Vol. 79.

COLUMBIA. Jan^y 5th 1810

SIR: Your Books from Charleston are I hope by this time nearly got up to Augusta, whither I shall set out in a few hours to meet & display them against the Races on the 17th. I pray God to give me some good success. No words ever yet coin'd on earth, or in heaven or hell can express my astonishment at your letters. Never was a man so kept in the dark with respect to the affairs of another as I have been kept with respect to yours. In your letters to me before I went on to Philad^a. you told me you w^d join me with your whole stock of 80 to 100,000 Doll^s worth of books. Now, in God Almighty's name! what ground had I, from all this, to infer that you were going to borrow 20,000 Dolls from the bank? You spoke with infinite complacency of my establishing 250 to 300 stores, I ask here again, I ask in God's eternal name what cause had I to dream that after establishing only 40 or 50 stores you were going to load me with so many piercing bitter curses for bringing you in sight of a prison for yourself and of a dunghill for your children? Well, go on, go on — But if such things prosper, then is there no God who takes notice of human actions, nor, regards how much one man slanders & troubles another. Yes, Sir, for a long time you have done nothing but *slander and trouble me*, who can now with honest Joy defy you in the presence of God to say when did I ever rob you of one penny? Or when did I ever hold back one penny of what belonged to you? You are constantly telling me what great wealth I might have made in your employ. But what w^d be all the wealth in this world made in the service of an unreasonable and Inhuman Taskmaster who makes no allowance for

delays nor disappointments, nor embargoes, nor scarce monies; — gives no credit for costliest sacrifices of Wife, Children, ease, safety, and so on, of his Slave, but constantly pursues him with unremitted maledictions pursues him wherever he goes, or how hard soever he is working! You eternally tell me of the happiness of your situation when I come to Philad^a. And what was my situation? Why that of a man who in the easiest & pleasantest way in the world, by the rapid sale of my *own little books* could have made 5, 10, and 15 Doll^s. a day! You talk of your family suffering. God knows I am infinitely far from being indifferent to your family's misfortune; But what then is to become of my family? They are not to get a shilling of your money untill it comes fairly to them, from the sale of your books. What then but the excess of passion cou'd make you charge me with caring nothing about the sale of your books and accosting me as a Wretch who heeds not who *sinks* provided he *swims*. When did I ever make [*a*]way with your *property*, *swim* with the *money* & leave you to sink? You ridicule me about my Religion. It is well I have something to keep me from pilfering & plundering you. I should find but little encouragement in your Justice or Gratitude. You continue to abuse me for not carrying about your books. This as I have told you 20 times was not contemplated in the first place, I mean, not untill we had set out a good many stores. It was plann'd that I shou'd sell my Waggon, get a gig, or even a saddle horse, for the purpose of fixing stores & distributing subscription papers. With a gig how could I carry your heavy boxes? It was my intention on my return to get me a stout waggon, 2 stout horses, and take my little son with me.¹ You say had Marion been sent with your books to Richmond I should have been there much sooner than I was. Badly as I and mine want money, I sometimes feel more for your want of it, which from this last charge I see must be considerable indeed, or you cou'd not have made that *charge*. So far from not getting to Richmond in time for your books, I tell you again I was there *2 weeks* before they all arriv'd. And part of the time on an expense of 2 doll^s a day for me and my horse! When I was here last I plac'd in two little stores two little assortments of my own pamphlets eleven doll^s each. All sold. I send you the money 20 Doll^s. God knows I heartily wish it was 10,000 Dollars.

¹ Jesse Ewell Weems.

Not that I wish to curry favor with you, for after the time fix^d on by you is expir^d I w^d not sell a book for an Angel of God who sh^d insist to overrule and mismanage things as you have done & then curse me into the bargain. But what grieves me most is that you should requite me so inhumanly for telling you of the charm & Glory of Fortitude. God knows how much I stand in need of fortitude and comfort. Now mark — I told you in Philad^a that I believ^d I cou^d make more by my *own little scribblings*. Well see what reason I had to think so. Your poor, illiterate & ineloquent young man (to *your own* knowledge) has sold in part of a day to the *amount* of 20 Doll^s, & I myself in 4 hours have *clear^d* upwards of 20 Doll^s. and all this on only *one* of my little scribblings, and that a *poor pamphlet*. Well I quitted this pleasant, lucrative course, and join^d you. For weeks & months I sometimes hardly sold a book, but attended to fix your stores consisting of great numbers of Books, *many* of which I had *rejected* on your parlour floor as unsaleable in poor Country places, but, still I went on, tho' *at times sad*, yet hoping things w^d by & by work around for the better. To assist you I pinch^d every dollar from my family, for I remember^d how generously you had lent me money & how greatly you had confided in me — I made the best distribution of your books — I w^d not touch one dollar from the sales — I left my family in tears & cries — with a bad cold & fever, in dreadful weather and in an open gigg I push^d on 500 miles to Columbia — I found that in consequence of not directing the books, (as I repeatedly intreated you, to a *Mercantile house* with letters *again & again* to admonish to send on the books) They were not arriv^d. Here I was 500 miles from home — on heavy expences — nothing to do, nothing to bring me in money to maintain myself or to send home to a sick wife & a large family of little children. I had no grand house in Philad^a, no excellent stand there, no Bibles & testaments compos^d no 80 or 100,000 dolls worth of valuable books as I firmly believed you had, but on the contrary living almost from hand to mouth, every day — my own little *trumpery* just run out, your books not come, and every dollar to be rais^d from that source, eagerly call^d for by your necessities, and that little book (Marion) from which I hop^d to raise enough to send you (at least the money you had engag^d to pay Robinson & to subsist myself & horse & send a little to my family) most unfeelingly withheld from me in this situation, thus

singularly disastrous & disheartening I found myself. and yet dreading more from your disappointment than my own, I begg^d you to bear up with *fortitude* and to look forward with hope to brighter days. And for this I am call^d an unfeeling Hypocrite, one who suffering nothing himself, cares not what others suffer. Merciful God! that Mathew Carey should be capable of such *Injustice!!!* I have several things to beg of you.

1st. write no more such letters. When a ship is driv^g on a lee shore, whether the Captain or Lieutenant was in fault, it is no time then to ascertain. Their duty is to give every moment & effort to claw off, and not to stand still to curse & damn each other. You charge me most virulently as the cause of the misfortune; I, on the contrary, feel no fear to swear in the presence of the All seeing God that had my plans, my counsels been follow^d from the beginning not only all these sorrows w^d. have been avoided but a glorious success w^d have crown'd all. But as I hinted, enough has been said on that score.

2^{dly} I pray you to lay to heart how cruelly I have been misled & disappointed in this affair. May God's eternal curse, hot and heavy as you wou'd wish it, descend on my head, if I did not expect & believe that I should have (according to your own promise) from 60 to 100,000 doll^s in my own hands and in 2 to 300 nice little stores, to work with. It was only in hope, that, from the sales on so large a stock, I shou^d be apt to do something for my family, I quitted my own lighter & easier business to cooperate with you. Well in place of realizing my expectations you have sent not more, we will say, not more than 40,000 Doll^s worth, and of these not more than 20,000 of such books as I w^d have *selected* or *order'*^d. Now on these, I make generally but about 10 per cent. Thus, shou'd the whole sell in one 12 month, I make but 2000 doll^s. but suppose they sell not sooner than two years, I make but 1000 dollars a year. But yet I never dream^d of complaint. Had you treated me with common politeness I shou'd steadily have look^d forward in hope, that, after winding up M^r. Waynes business here in the South, a noble waggon w^d be started with a *choice selection*, with which I shou^d, accompanied by my little boy, have dash^d on from Court to Court selling rapidly myself, saving all commissions, and improving every grain of my acceptability or popularity with the Public in getting orders, calling in Adjutants &c. &c. &c. But behold, after drawing me off from my own little favorite pursuits, and engaging

me in a gigantic scheme, manag^d contrary to my wishes & terminating as I always knew it w^d, in disappointment, the enterprize is abandon'd & I am to lose nearly *two years of my life*. And as if all this was [*not*] grievous enough on a poor man with a large family, I am loaded with *maledictions & curses* incessant for murdering all your promising hopes forever. As if it was *possible for me to suspect that* after furnishing me with not more than 20 or 25,000 dollars of the *right sort* of books, you w^d turn around and fall to cursing and damning me for causing you to borrow 20,000 Doll^s out of the banks!! Such things fill me with horror that I cannot express. I have reason to curse the hour that I went to Philad^a the last time. Had I not gone I shou'd have happily escap'd all this trouble.

3^d & last. Let me intreat you, most earnestly intreat you, to believe what I shall now again trouble you with, that I had not the most distant idea that things were as your late letters state. I never dreamt that you were borrowing *twenty thousands* of dollars out of the banks to carry on this business. Had I thought it, I w^d just as soon have cut my own throat, as have encourag'd you a moment in such an enterprize & so miserably conducted. From [*your*] telling me that you had from 80 to 100,000 doll^s worth of stock, I concluded that nearly the whole of those books were your own, and that therefore, tho numbers of those sent did not suit my taste, yet there was perhaps no great harm in giving them a chance. And this I told you.

To conclude, Tho, (except the single circumstance of not having distributed quite so many subscription papers as I cou'd have wish'd) I am not conscious of any material defect of duty, yet since the result has been disastrous to you & has made you unhappy, I am sincerely sorry *for it*, and am very willing, tho so unjustly & inhumanly treated, to do all I can to bring about a glorious change. If you can only weather the storm till I return, and then patiently follow my plans, if I do not in 10 years make a great deal of money for you, then must there be no commerce nor cash in America. It is my hope that you have, led by a wise & magnanimous policy, accomplish^d my wishes & bound & sent on to New York my *Life of Marion*. If you have not, you need not put yourself to the expence. I want you to borrow no money for me. Only be so good as to beg M^{rs}. Bailey or some other *safe* hand, just to

stitch them in blue papers (It wont cost perhaps more than *one or two cents apiece*) and send them on to M^r. John Hoff, or to Tho^s. W. Bacon, [*Bacot*] Post Master, Charleston, with orders to him to receive the money before delivery of the books. The little sum now sent, and others lately sent, were not, all, *your money*. I have friends who will help me to such a trifle as that. I tell you again that by the sale of Marion I shall be enabled to subsist myself & horse, without touching your *money*, & also to send you, I hope, some handsome remittances, & some little matter to my poor children.

L. & F. Vol. 79.

AUGUSTA [*Jan.?*] 12 — [18]10.

SIR, I reach^d this place two days ago — found the Books, arriv^d but a few hours before me — Have just unpack^d assorted & shelved the whole. The storeroom not yet clear^d of rubbish — sold in the course of the Day about 50 Dollars. Send you 20. The rest of the 50 with some of the *last* of my own little monies went to pay the waggonage from Charleston. Money exceedingly scarce. But some think I shou^d do well if I had but the means, i.e, a full assortment. It w^d appear like there never was to be an end to my troubles. I entreated you *once* and *again* to inclose in each box a catalogue of its contents — you highly approved the idea. It woud remedy all the inconveniences of omissions, loss by mails &c. &c. I say you approved the idea & yet to my great grief you have omitted it. In your angry letters to me at Richmond you sent catalogues of 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, — while of the rest no catalogues are given. Nor of the pair of *globes*. I hope I shall be able to go on with the sales somehow or other, but beg you w^d send the catalogues instantly. I wish also you woud give me your final determination as to the dissolution of the connexion. You have indeed so decreed in one of your letters. And it is most heartily *my wish* also, that is, if so be as how you mean to go on in the same way wher in things have hitherto been conducted. But if you can but bring yourself to believe that I understand this business, as to its *Foreign Relations* infinitely better than you do; also that in point of Talent, education, sobriety, industry, popular manners, universal acquaintance, and so on and so on I am fully your Equal, and coud you, additionally, but treat

me with *politeness* and give time to sow, & time to ripen, and (which is found necessary in *all other* ponderous concerns) time to shape things into *right order*, I say could all this but be done, I should have no objection to continue the experiment. All I have to ask of you is just to tell me your mind in your next. Please also to let me know what you have done for *me as to Marion*. I requested you in my last from Columbia, in which I sent you 20 Dolls of my own private small monies, to have them done up for me in the cheap inexpensive style of *blue papers* only, & sent on to John Hoff Bookseller Charleston or to Tho^s W. Bacot Post Master. They shall be paid for the moment I get to Charleston & not out of your money, tho' *a little of it by this time* is certainly due to me. I have but to tell you that wanting money as both of us do, you will find it your best policy to hurry me on that little book (*Marion*) especially as it is to cost you nothing in the binding For, otherwise, I shall soon be compell^d to break in on my part of the profits of sales, which hitherto have been most sacredly devoted to remittance to you.

L. & F. Vol. 79.

AUGUSTA Jan^y 22. [18]10.

SIR . . . I told you to get Marion put into blue papers. You need not even do that if you can grudge it to me who, ever since I left Philad^a, have been sending on every doll. of my own little book money, & ordering on to you all of your own, not keeping scarcely a shilling beforehand to pay my expences. I say you need not even put Marion into blue papers, but send him in sheets to M^r. John Hoff. Cotton here, that sells in Philad^a at 25, goes at eleven cents. The Planters w^d I dare say deal largely with me & give Cotton. What do you advise? Also with respect to the books that may remain unsold, what am I to do with them? Had they but the accompaniment of Religious & school books, they cou^d be plac'd with great safety & great advantage in stores at the various Court houses, whence they w^d bring you in a good deal of money, and save the expense of sending them back.

Every day's experience confirms me in the *most Assured* belief, that, were all your books now back in Philad^a and melted down into such as I could name, & I, mounted on horseback making my arrangements, thro' the Country, I cou^d in 10 years make for you a gigantic fortune. With

respect to the Cotton & the Disposal of your books that are here as stated above, and what you have done with Marion, I pray you to write instantly.

L. & F. Vol. 79.

AUGUSTA Jan^y. 29. 1810.

SIR . . . Your letter of the 9th got here last night — You wish me to be particular in answering, or in acknowledging the *receipt* of your letters. I shall so do. But this is no time to write intemperate letters. And you ought, and I doubt not, will one day blush for what you have written. You see that *notwithstanding* your indecent reflections on my “*honor*,” I am constantly sending you monies, and I may add *large* monies when it is rememberd that I have but a very *limited variety* *indeed* of your books, and of these many not very saleable, many very *ponderous* from 10 to 45\$ per copy, and I may almost say, not a school book, nor a Religious Book in the whole collection, nor a chap book nor *blank books* &c. &c. And yet in one fortnight I have sent you 210 Doll^s notwithstanding this miserable scarcity of Cash. I have not ask^d, but I much fear that Mess^{rs}. Hobby & Bunce & twenty others of your Agents have hardly sent you more in twice the time. Indeed every day affords additional proof to me, that were I but properly supported by one who w^d *act wisely* & not *write passionately*, one who w^d send me books of *my* ordering, and not with cruel kindness heap me with such as I did not want, every day’s experience, I say, convinces me that with such a man I cou^d do *great things* for the Public, for him & for myself & children. In my *last* I told you that the Courts in this Country sit for a *whole week* that they commence on the 1st of March. And that w^d you now but send me on a good supply of school books, Latin & Greek ditt^o, and especially Religious books & my Life of Marion, I might yet by the 1st of June make you up a noble Collection. I have rec^d but little benefit from the Court here, for in consequence of some error of the Judge it was dissolved on the 4th day!! . . .

However cou^d you but weather the gale of Passion and get things once more under the easy sail of Prudence, with the *right cargo* on board, and *myself* at the *helm*, you w^d yet in 10 years be the Lackington of N. America. God grant you wisdom but to try the experiment.

*L. & F. Vol. 79.*AUGUSTA, Feb. 3^d 1810

SIR

Last week I sent you 130

Now I send you 50

I have nearly as much more, but I hate to be entirely without. I have it is true some good books here, but then they are of so *limited* a variety that I am eternally expos^d to the mortification of being call^d on for books which I have not. And I tell you now what I have always told you, that cou^d I but *command* my books I shou^d most easily out of half the money make you double the sales. Yesterday I sent about 800 Doll^s up to Wilkes County, where will be a Court held on monday. I shall myself set out this afternoon for that place. As the *Courts* will not commence seriously till 4 or 5 weeks hence, on my return from Wilkes I purpose to push off to Charleston with some books that are engag^d by Gentlemen near & in that town. I shall get there by the 20th. And the races will begin on the 2^d. Cou^d I but be met there with 2 or 300 of the Life of Washington I shoud in all probability put them off in a week or 10 days. And then I cou^d be up time enough to dash in with the Courts; which I see by advertisements in the papers are thrown forward one week later. So says the Legislature at its last Session. I pray you write to me at Charleston and send me on my Marion. If you are afraid for your money send word to Mr. John Hoff Bookseller to whom I suppose you have directed it, to take the pay, *your whole pay*, before he delivers it. Tho' not rich in money I am rich in Friends who will readily indorse my paper in the Charleston bank to that amount.

You are a great man and I a little one; but 'tis some comfort to me to remember that there is one who is rather greater than us both. You have for some time past been doing a good deal to torment my life, by charging me with things of which my conscience is clear. You have also been doing much to depress and impoverish my children, and all under the most unjust plea that I have neglected your Interest. But I rejoice in the habitual recollection that I have done all in my power for your interest, because, if for no other reason, it was my own. I told you besides that if you w^d take on you to pay for Marion, I w^d not touch a penny of your money till June. You have taken the Book & now won't

send it on, tho I have repeatedly told you that all the monies arising from the sales shou'd be sent to you, except a little for my own support & for remittance to my children. You promis'^d me 80 to 100,000 Doll^s worth of books, but have stopped at 40,000 — you promised me 250 to 300 stores, you stop at 30 — And yet you will go on to commend yourself & to *Curse* ME!!!

L. & F. Vol. 79.

AUGUSTA Feb. 14. 1810

SIR. . . . Thank God I am very popular among the People of this Country and coud, (were I but furnish^d with such books as *I coud point out*) easily do very great things. Had I but a good many of each sort of the religious books mentioned in the printed catalogue sent me, I believe I might in the 5 weeks I have been here have sold from 800 to 1000 Doll^s.

. . . Washington outsells anything I have, no comparison. I carried 39 to Wash.ton sold *every one*, which little handful brought in one 5th of all the money I collected. . . .

[*Unsigned.*]

L. & F. Vol. 79.

AUGUSTA Feb. 17. 1810

SIR.

. . . But for this, I pray you to remember that I am running my poor family very near to the ground; for indeed I have not made them a remittance for 5 weeks & then only 20\$. I tell you again, as I have told you 1000 times, that s^d you, *Palinurus*¹ like, but keep your station at the *helm*, and allow me to watch the gale & to check the bowlings round in the weather-braces, I shou'd (*Heaven conspiring*) soon cover our pacific with silver foam. . . .

¹ Palinurus, a pilot of Aeneas. When the Trojans were approaching the coast of Italy, he slept and fell overboard. The ghost of Palinurus appeared to Aeneas on his visit to Hades and said that he had been washed ashore

and murdered by the natives. In accordance with the promise of the Sibyl, his body received suitable burial. See *Aeneid*, Virgil, V, 833-871; VI, 337-383.

*L. & F. Vol. 79.*AUGUSTA 26 Feb^y. 1810

SIR . . . I pray you *instantly* to send M^{rs} Weems Dumfries 50 Doll^s.

I have at length commenc'd the business to which you have so long press'd [*me?*] and for which my friends are pleas'd to say I am peculiarly qualified, to push off books at Court houses & among throngs of Country People. I have tried it now but at 2 Courts, Washington & Sparta: and under great disadvantages, for of the 10,000 books that are published & constantly ask'd for I certainly have not more than one hundred varieties [*of*] of these many so costly & ponderous as to preclude all hope of sale, or slow at best. And yet, thank God, at Washington I sold 200 Doll^s *cash* which I sent you, & in good notes soon payable 84 Doll^s more. And here at Sparta I sold 300\$ cash and 60 Doll's good notes. But I send you 400\$ because 75 of those were collected from Mr. Lucas with whom I left Books 18 months ago. Now if from so very imperfect a Collection, a collection in which there is not a single Bible of any sort, nor a Dictionary, nor a latin book, nor Greek book, nor French book, nor Dream book, nor Horse Doctor's — I say if from so very imperfect a collection I sold in two weeks 6 to 600 Doll^s what might I not do with a full collection I verily believe in my soul, that with such an *Assortment* as I could name out of your books I cou'd sell at the Court houses of this Country from 500 to 1000 Dolls a week. In your last letters of the 1^s 6, & 8th. you run over the face of our late ill manag'd business, for as you say, the *last time*. You run over it, as usual, in a manner most kind to yourself, most cruel to me. But you say it is for the *last time*. Well, let me say one word, and eternally for the *last time*. You found me in Philad^a 18 months ago on the eve of making a comfortable living for my family without *disquietude* or *danger*, by selling my own little books (Life of Washington, Mary Findley &^c &^c) for by them alone I have clear'd often from 5 to 10 & 20 Dolls a day. Well I join'd you under the *promise* & under the hope of a glorious support from you of 80 to 100.000 Doll^s of Books. My plan was a good collection of school books & Family Bibles, with 30, 40, or 50 ad captandum little pieces making assortm^{ts} of 300 Doll^s worth, & 200 to 300 of those placed in situations of my own choosing, and that while these were selling off, I shou'd in other well chosen districts be dashing on with large & general

assortments at the Court houses &c &c. Well, the books were for two days paraded in your parlour & such as I knew w^d sell quick, I marked off for our business. But Behold! instead of making up handsome little saleable assortments, the very first thing you did was to crush my Heart & Soul by sending 10,000 Dolls worth of your heavy Books, such as had been tried, *most ruinously for me*, in former disastrous times. I may have been a week or two longer in unpacking, & assorting, & packing again those books, but the bitterness of the season and my want of aid except my little children, & my 6 months absence from my family, might have given me *with you* at least, a fortnights furlough. Soon as this first trouble was remov'd, I was attack^d with an inflammatory tumour which confined me 4 weeks. When this was gone, I fell to work to establish the stores, which I did on as large a scale as things w^d admit. Books were sent to Richmond for Courthouse sales, they were also sent to Charleston for *Columbia* sales. Those for Rich^d did not arrive in time for their purpose, consistently with what was indispensably due to the *much larger* supplies sent for Columbia. [*If?*] One was [*to be?*] neglected, the smaller certainly [*should have been?*] Those for Richm^d were stor'd in the best hands. I push^d off [*for*] Columbia. No books had come. Had they been address^d to some good Mercantile house as I begg^d, they w^d have come. Thus in place of making 10, 15, 20, or 30 Doll^s a week, for my [*family*] by my own little books, & what I cou'd have got in exchange for them, I have *now*, after *months* of separation from the fondest family on earth, and *thousands of miles travelling*, made not *one cent*. But not one thought, not one sympathy has been extended to me, or to my suffering, long abandoned, and sometimes needy family. Had I been a Dives & you a Lazarus, you cou'd not have cursed me more bitterly. Wet, cold, feverish, thirsty, hungry, bad roads, wintry weather, floods, Robbers, fatigue unprofitable labours, wasting life, an indigent family, all these evils and many others, which I had daily to encounter, were not bad enough, and heavy enough to crush me down, but you must in every letter be imploring of God to send his "*maledictions*" and "*curses*" after me. And yet after planting a Grief in my Soul, which I shall not easily ever get over, you cruelly most cruelly wanted to take away all my consolations, my "*Religion*" my "*Philanthropy*" and my "*scribbling*" all of which you barbarously Jeer'd me about. Now I say, *in the presence*

of God, if I had not Religion enough to put my *trust in God*, & hope all for the best, if I had not Philanthropy enough to pray for you who have treated me so cruelly; if I had not a fondness to *scribble* to divert my thoughts from *Distraction*, what could possibly have kept me from *hard drink*, from Gambling, *vending* your property, &c. &c. for my own & my family's indulgence, and thus to *get revenge*. But from all these evils you know that you are perfectly safe and therefore don't care how unreasonably and barbarously you treat me. And yet, after all I feel no hate, no wish to do you any harm, but on the contrary, wish most heartily to do you & your family the greatest possible good. You have put great confidence in me, & tho' it has been in the way of sending me *millions of books*, I *did not want*, & putting me to a whole year of *unprofitable & ruinous* labours yet it was a great confidence put in me. God is my Judge that I wish you to rejoice at the last. And, thank God, I am thoroughly persuaded if you will but now follow my plans, you may do far beyond anything you are at present aware of. In my letter, tomorrow by way of Charleston, I shall point out to you the path to wealth. In the interim, send me off instantly 2 to 300 Doll^s worth of best school books, family Bibles & Religious books (as by my last of the 15 & 17). And desire M^r. Brundige to give M^{rs}. Weems 50 Doll^s for me. I set off tomorrow for 3 great Courts. Where had I but the books I want, & which *you have*, I could, so help me God, according to my belief, send you 1500 Dolls.

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AUGUSTA. Feb^y 27. 1810.

SIR — By yesterdays mail I sent 400 — Today, via Charleston, send 2^d part, same draft 400 I said I w^d point out the way to wealth, to you. I shew^d you yesterday, *and for the last time forever*, how very partial you have been to yourself, & how very unkind and oppressive to me. I also stated, that so far [*from*] pursuing you with my "*male-dictions & curses*" for throwing me out of one whole year of my life, to say nothing of all the labours and sorrows I have undergone, I do most sincerely wish & pray God that I may yet be the happy cause to make you to rejoice at the last. Yes and with Joy I firmly believe, and am certain as a man can possibly be from premises thoroughly understood moder-

ately rated, that w^d you but follow my plans you w^d in 24 months from this date possess *forty thousand Dollars* more than you now possess. In the first place ship off & instantly 2 or 3000 Doll^s worth. Well, then, that being done, now attend. You say that you have, or that *I have for you* set out nearly 40,000\$ worth of books These you wish me to sell for you. For the sale of these you are willing to allow me two years. Then, *for God's sake*, write instantly to every one of our agents to pack, *well-pap'r'd & boxed*, one *half* of their books and send on to me, by way of Savannah, to Augusta, as directed particularly in my last letters of the 15 & 17th. Here you will have no *new expence* of *books* money, cost of *boxes*, *freightage*, *Drayage*, &c. &c. but such as *I shall pay*, unless indeed, which may be well enough, you desire Doct^r. Harall of Savannah to receive & pay for the boxes, & to draw on me at Doct^r. Murray's in Augusta. If the books thus sent shou^d amount to 10 or 12,000 Doll^s. I cou^d dispose of *them admirably*. I do not intend to leave this country till the first of July During that interval I cou^d sell a great many myself; the ballance I w^d thus dispose of. I live in the family of the wealthiest & most eminent Physician in Augusta, Doct^r. Murray. With him is now connected in the bonds of partnership a [Doct^r Fendall, son of the famous surgeon Dentist of Maryland,¹ and who for what reason I know not has taken some liking to me. Doct. Fendall has taken a handsome house, in the front of which is a large store room. Having no use for it, (for in the next house, Doct^r Murrays grand Brick building they keep their Assortments of Drugs, Chemicals & Officinals)² he very politely gave the use of it to me, but in return I put on one or two locks on the doors. Doct^r Fendall keeps my key in my absence & is very fond of selling for me, & the week I went to Washington sold 60 Doll^s all but,

¹ It is difficult to tell whether father or son is alluded to in the following references: Dr. Thomas H. M. Fendall, a member of the Medical Society of Augusta, Ga., in 1822, probably organized in 1808. See *Memorial History of Augusta, Georgia*, Charles C. Jones, Jr., M.D., and Salem Dutcher, Syracuse, 1890, p. 252, LC. — In the *Augusta Chronicle* of 1807 Dr. Fendall announced that he had settled in that town. — 'Doctor Fendall, Surgeon Dentist, is just arrived . . . on his way to Fredericktown and Baltimore

. . .' *Maryland Herald & Elizabethtown Advertiser*, Aug. 24, 1797, M^{ss}. — 'Dr. Fendall, operator upon teeth, has just arrived . . .' *Enquirer* (Richmond), Jan. 9, 1808 *et seq.*, LC.

² 'Officinal, *n. Pharm.* . . . *adj.* . . . Kept in stock by apothecaries; said of such drugs and medicines as may be had without special preparation or combining.' *Webster's International Dictionary*, LC. . . . This term is often interchanged with *official* . . .

& last week sold going on upon 30 or 40, and could have sold, as he thinks, 200 had he but had of the right sort. Well, Doct. Fendall is very willing to have the books *advertised* in his name, and to sell for me while I shall, this fall, run on to the North to wind up with Mr. Wayne, & to look at & arrange with our Agents. For as to selling the ballance of their books, be assured that the chance of doing that in Virginia is not comparable to what it is in this Country. The advantage in point of wealth is infinitely in favor of this state & Carolina. See! in Orange & Madison Counties I tried the Courthouses, for two weeks, I sold but about 150 Doll^s. Here, in two weeks I sold, cash & good notes, 700 Dolls! No comparison. And what wonder? Here in Augusta, they annually take forty thousand *bales of cotton*; making at 10 cents a pound 12 hundred thousand dollars!!!! And besides, had I but a *full* assortment of school books & Religious ditt^o & some latin & greek, I cou'd with what I now have on hand, I could make up 3, 4, or 5 pretty assortments for the *rich* counties & large academies which are multiplied here most gloriously. As to your saying that, in event of my death, all your property here w^d sink to 5 shillings in the pound, 'tis all a joke. I could & w^d give you a return in their *own writing* of your books receiv^d. by any completely safe & most trustworthy Gentlemen, & I w^d give you the names of the Attornies, excellent Men as any you know on earth, who w^d, if I were to die, collect your monies & send on as honestly as I w^d. Besides, if we are to undertake nothing untill we get proof of Peoples immortality, what shall we ever undertake? I have, I agree, been imprudent in former times, when I was ignorant of men; & here more recently, when I was crowded & cursed with embarrassment. But you may depend on me now as entirely or more *than on yourself*. For I have more at stake, you possessing a good deal & I nothing for my family. Well observe, before I leave this place, I may sell a good deal, and of books that are doing you no good — in my absence an Influential character w^d sell for me, I allowing him handsomely. And on my return next Fall, for I have serious thoughts of settling in this Country, I should then be ready for the *Courts* & the two Legislatures, & great Races; And let me tell you, that few People have such advantages as I possess, and very few [*are*] so universally known and so generally befriended by everybody. This, I *doubt not*, appears to you like begging & persuading you, and as if

I had no body who w^d give me books. But let me pray you not to ascribe it to any such thing I have had better offers than you gave me and from a large house in *Philad^a*. But God is witness when I tell you that I wish from my soul to see this dark cloud break away, and the Sunbeam of Prosperity rejoicing over both our families. The whole of this great loss to *us both*, originated from my insisting on being allow^d to act as if yourself or your son was here selling books for you. In *that case*, you w^d take your ballances & your money for the whole am^t of what you brought out. This is what I want^d, and what I still want: and tho' I am not certain that I have lost one single dollar of your books, yet, knowing myself to be poor I cou'd not bear the idea of being responsible for losses. And, tho as *I said*, I am not sure of having lost any single dollar, yet I w^d deduct some of my commission to have the matter on grounds perfectly square with my Poverty & feelings. I pray you write to me by return of mail what deduction you think ought to be made of my commission. To quicken the sales, and especially to those who buy several books I often deduct considerably. On some books I get but 20, on others but 10 pr *Cent now*; which together with some few losses, where I credit, ought to dispose you to be moderate in deducting In case you are for continuing the business, send on the 2 or 3000 Doll^s of books as by order of letter 15 & 17th, send at once; leaving the propos^d deduction to future negociation. The alterations you spoke of in your last letter, were suggested by the small remittances owing to the recency of the Business & monies I had to pay here for you. From what I have done in the last two or three weeks, you ought to take heart, especially as you must well know what great things might be done had I but a complete assortment. Yes, in two years I cou'd send you 40,000 Dollars; and with a very trivial addition to the expence already incurr'd. In a word, concentrate all your outstanding books into my hands in this rich Country. Put me on the same footing you w^d yourself or son (though at some diminution of my salary) i.e, take all the remittances & ballances for the amount, (tho if I had *my way*, there shou'd be no ballances for you to take back) and let *me* say what *books are to be subscription'd for*; and never write any letters to me, follow *my advices* & "eat your bread with joy & drink your wine with a merry heart." And, with God's help, I'll answer for the result.

Inclos^d I send the list of law books *immensely* & *immediately wanted here*. You shall soon hear about Hobby, Merriwether, &c.

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AUGUSTA. Feb. 28, 1810

SIR, Since closing my letter I have recollected what appears well worth communicating. You sent me to this place, I believe about 300 Life of Washington. Of these, tho' I have been but to two Courts, I find that *one-half is sold*. There are in this State 36 Counties, and each County w^d, to a moral certainty, take from 1 to 2 or 300 of that work. For one County that w^d take but 100, there are others, richer & more populous, that w^d take 500. In fact, cou^d I but be allow^d *a little leisure* to follow *my own plans*, I shou^d not be in the least afraid to make *my fortune*, & *proportionably yours*, only on good collections of School Books, family Bibles (No 4 letter^d) 30 nice ad captandum pieces *with Washington* and my other little works, according to my plan always. And this shews how unfairly you construe all my *best meant* proposals to you. You write to me in terms too bad to repeat, for offering to you "*to buy me out*." You saw with your own eyes, & heard with your own ears the rapid sales of Washington & Mary Findley. And here now in this very Country, where two years ago I sold a great part of *one edition* of Washington & *two* of M. Findley, I still sell more of them than of any, even *the best school books* that you have sent me, and yet you could get mad because I offer^d you the purchase of my little books on your *own terms*. I begg^d you to send some stationary to all the stores, even tho' as I told you 50 times "*I got nothing on it*," because, as I said, I did not want the People to leave your stores to go *elsewhere*. Even so, I offer^d you my books, which you knew to be most saleable, on your *own price*; Why? Why because I did not want any *separate interest*. I don't write these things out of anger or hatred, but to convince you that you have often treated me with great *injustice*. And it was to tell you this that I digress^d from my first point in this letter which was to tell you that if you cou^d instantly send off 500 Copies of Washington to Charleston to Hoff And 500 to Augusta, via Savanna I expect to be able to sell them all pretty soon. Mr. Hoff will (on a letter from

you) take care of them at Charleston. Doct^r Harall of Savannah will on a letter send those for Augusta. I wrote to you to send 300 to Charleston before, if you have done it, there will be the less necessity for so many as 500 now Inclose 50 Grand folio advertisements in *each* Box. My God! Coud you but, *at last*, consent to attend to the business, in Philad^a, and leave me to attend to it here, all w^d soon come right again; and in 10 years, nay in 5 years I shou^d count on *making our fortunes*. I pray you instantly to direct Brundige to pay M^{rs}. Weems 50 Dollars. . . .

What you do do *immediately*, as I wish to leave this Country in July, & push on to Phil^a to wind up with M^r. Wayne. . . .

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GREENSBORO, GEORG^a March. 7, 1810.

SIR . . . Were I *but let alone* I w^d in a year or two (the world was not made by *God Almighty* himself in a minute) in one or two years I w^d have the Spectator & Rollins printed to some good tune. . . .

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LEXINGTON OGLETHORPE COUNTY March 12, 1810.

SIR, I am just this moment from Greensboro where I collected, God be prais^d, within a fraction of 400 Doll^s. The Mercantile Gentry of this country, from an impression that Books are not worth a fig as *to sales*, scarcely get any; And yet you see what I have been enabled to do. In short the result of every experiment that I have yet made, has been Evidence point blank for my long establish^d. opinion viz. that were I but furnish^d with Books of my *own choice* & left to God & Myself I shou^d in a few years make you an estate, and in the best way in the world i.e. of doing the best services to the world. . . .

It may seem like Vanity but it is true, & thank God for it, that I am very much in the good graces of the Judges, Lawyers, & Divines, & People of this Country. My little books "Life of Wash. Mary Findley, Hymen, ["] & my late little book "God['s] revenge against Gambling"¹

¹ The earliest edition of this pamphlet which I have found is the 'Second Edition. Philadelphia: Printed for the Author. 1812,' the title of which reads as follows: *God's Revenge against*

have render^d me more popular than I deserve. And it is a great thing at these Public times & places, to have the big People take me by the hand & send the Little Fry to me . . .

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WATKINSVILLE March. 24. 1810

SIR. Considering the extremely deficient collection, hardly one in 5 of the books suited to this market, — I think I have reason to be very glad that I have done as well as I have

At Greensboro, a 20 house village I sold \$400
 [At?] Lexington “ do — do — I sold 250
 At Watkinsville “ do — do — I sold 120

Near 800 Dolls and no School books, no Religious books, not even a Pilgrims progress & Washington & Findley all gone — People tearing me to pieces for the *first, and the last*. . .

Compts to M^{rs} C. & Family.

[March] 27th. Jefferson Village, 20 houses Arriv^d here yesterday morning. Tho' miserably destitute of Religious & School books, yet, thank God, I sold yesterday & today 230 Doll^a.

A friend here advis^d me to get a *draft* — God willing, you shall receive a *draft immediately*. I have told you that the Courts sit here again in June. . . .

I shall settle in a few weeks with Hobby, Merriweather &c. &c.

Gambling. Exemplified in the Miserable Lives and Untimely Deaths of a Number of Persons of both Sexes, who had sacrificed their Health, Wealth, and Honor at Gaming Tables. With Curious Anecdotes of the Following Unfortunate Gamblers: — I. Miss Fanny Braddock, sister of General Braddock, who, from Gambling, hung herself. II. Drisdan Harwood, Esq. Maryland, who, from Gambling, drowned himself. III. Jack Gilmore, Esq. Virginia, who, from Gambling, shot himself. IV. T. Alston, Esq. (N.C.) who, from Gambling, was shot by Capt. Johnson. V. Maria Antoinette, Queen of France, who, for Gambling, was brought to the Guillotine.

VI. Other awful cases of young Gamblers, and their untimely ends. Blest is the Youth who ne'er consents In Gamblers' haunts to stray; But bates their games, and shuns the place, Where men profanely play. In Health and Wealth, in Peace and Love, Full safe that Youth shall grow, And then with saints shall sing above, Whilst Gamblers weep below. By M. L. Weems, Formerly Rector of Mount Vernon Parish. (Bibliography, title 189.) It seems probable that Hobby printed the first edition of this pamphlet here alluded to (see letter of Mar. 24, 1810).

in full. The former printed me a little pamphlet.¹ In paying you *for that*, which sells rapidly, I shall pay you some little part of what they owe U & sooner or as soon perhaps as you w^d have gotten your *money otherwise*.

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AUGUSTA, Ap. 3^d. 1810

M. CAREY ESQ^r. Well blessed be God who, as I hope, has brought me safe with my money to this place, to throw it into a draft, which I [*now*] send for — 950 Doll^s. From so *very limited an assortment* as I have the great misfortune to command, & in such *hard times*, cotton from 6 to 11 cents, I have cause of Joy & thankfulness that I have sold 1150 Doll^s in 4 weeks — One hundred of this I must send to my needy family — & the other hundred expended in my *own* & the costs of transportation of books, & part of it, indeed, in *notes* of hand, payable in *June Courts*, & the remaining 950 I send to you.

As to Weems & Ridgley, they sold of my *own little* books with great alacrity & honor — & not doubting but they w^d gladly sell on a *better scale*, I selected them for you — they are honest — As to Gen^l Steel, you know well that I wrote to you of him from Dumfries & not from Salisbury. And it was on his *proffer^d services* in gett^g an honest & competent *Agent*, and not on his own manual agency that I depended. However the moderation not to say politeness of your letter clearly evinces that you saw all these circumstances. As to my pressing on People to take the books, God Almighty knows that if I COU'D BUT HAVE HAD MY WAY, I w^d have seen them in Purgatory, five minutes at least, before I w^d have press^d one Rascal of them all. My plan was to have gone around, & first have chosen my *Men*, and my *Ground*, & my books, &c &c and all on the proper philosophy of *Congruities & fitnesses of Things*. . . .

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AUGUSTA, Ap. 6. 1810.

SIR . . . Thus have I, God be prais^d, in [*torn, ten?*] weeks re-mitted & paid for you 2000 Doll^s — and of a very limited Assortment —

¹ Probably the first edition of Weems' *God's Revenge against Murder*, 1807 (*Bibliography, title 177*).

no School books nor Religious. The Courts are now under respite for 14 days. Am making my best preparations for another attack. Tho' all alone, and in a wild distant land, and miserably furnish^d, yet do I not despair — In two hours I start for Louisville to see if I can't derive some help from Merriweather's collection. In the Milledgville paper I have notified the Gentlemen of the bar that I shall at the session in *June*, have a good collection of Law books. It will be a sad thing to disappoint them.¹ . . .

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AUGUSTA May 3^d, 1810

SIR.

About 15 days ago I sent you two drafts . . . Doll^s. . . 950

I now send you 300

Shou'd have sent you a great deal more, imperfect as my assortment was, had it not been for a most untoward affair that happened here. I went to the Court at Elbert, as I promis^d, and was beginning to do great things, sold the first day 50 dolls the 2^d day 90, and behold about the middle of the 3^d day an express came from the Gov^r that we were all to be murder^d by the Negroes. Judge, Jury, Lawyers and all took the alarm — the Court was adjourn^d, The Court of *Lincoln* County which was to sit the last week, was also *adjourn^d!!* For who could bear to go out from home & leave his wife & children to be murder^d by the d—d Negroes? However I got a Waggoner to go down to Lincoln with me where I made up my 300 Doll^s, and which may astonish you, contriv^d to push off to the amount of 300 Doll^s more payable in 45 days from *this date*. The books are arriv^d. 19 boxes & 2 or 3 with Marion of former shipments. Now listen to me. If I know my own Soul, I am *incapable of fraud*. Well, you state in your letter of 3 weeks date past, that you cannot pay the expence of carrying the books up into the Country. Well, my mind is made up that I cannot do it. What with my losses in *crediting* — and in *deducting* when People *take several books*, and various expences & draw backs, it is utterly impossible for me [*to*] encounter other expences. God knows, & you know that both I & my family have liv^d poor and poor enough, — I dont wish to die a perfect

¹ See announcement of September 19, 1810.

Pauper. You agreed & obligated yourself to pay, — & when I am going about from Court to Court it does not cost much. . . .

[*Unfinished and unsigned.*]

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AUGUSTA May 31, 1810

SIR . . . The sudden alarm about an insurrection of the Blacks caus^d the Judges & Jury & Lawyers to run off home just as I had got the attention of the People fix^d on me, & was receiv^g very fast — 300 I got in cash in about 10 days & 300 in the best *notes*. You want to know when I shall come on home. I w^d gladly stay till the Autumnal Courts were all over which w^d afford a grand harvest (coud I but get the books I send for) but you know I owe a debt of winding up his business to Mr. *Wayne*. I am at a loss what to do till I hear from that Gentleman to whom I have written. I pray God to order all for the best . . .

Let things go as they will you are sure to get your part, whereas I have risks, losses, drawbacks & sinking funds of a thousand sorts. In short I am so sensible that I cannot stand it, that if you insist on changing the ground of our agreement, I must beg to retire at once from so ruinous a business. God knows, as it is, I have not been able to keep my poor wife from borrowing a few dollars from her neighbours to keep up the family. Hence if I am to be a Beggar I'll e'en go home at once & beg with my Children. My mind is unalterably fix^d. And besides I see nothing but vexation of spirit before me everlastingly. I see the road to wealth & Usefulness, but you will never allow me to walk in it. Had I but the absolute command of 25,000 Doll^s worth of books of my own choice, I cou^d I think, sell to that amount annually. But no. You must take an oath to keep from me the books I want, & thus subject me to a 1000 curses; and then chase me all over the earth with letters full of curses besides. What caus'd me to write the letter on the 20th of October, but the belief, from your bitter & abusive letters to me, that you wanted to break with me. If you w^d but stick to the *Constitution* first agreed on by us, & send me the books I want & *no letters* — & let me alone all w^d prosper gloriously. In a few hours I start up the country.

Send *no more* sorrow of Werter, nor Hoyle, nor Eloisa, — nor any book

of bad morals. . . . "Jokes & Songs" do well . . . I am getting the Counties to subscribe for Libraries. The poor little County of Lincoln subscrib^d for 300 Doll^s worth. Green County — sub^d for 300. Jackson County . . . 300.

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AUGUSTA July 2, 1810.

. . . During the last 3 months I have nearly averag^d 1000 Doll^s a month tho' with comparatively a poor collection, I shall now for 5 months do rather better, perhaps to the tune of 7000 Doll^s in 5 months. . . .

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AUGUSTA, July 30. 1810

. . . This is no time to be wrangling. The Country is in darkness. Men's minds are uninform'd, their hearts bitter, and their manners savage. Humanity and Patriotism both cry aloud, Books Books, Books. If you want me to do much good, this *fall*, for the Country or yourself — send me immediately \$100 Bucks Theological Diet. 300 Russells 7 sermons, no more Blairs. — 20 Whitfields sermons. 12 village sermons, 50 Bunyan's Visions, 50 Rippons hymns. 12 Pilg. progress, 100 Doz Webster's spell^g. . . . 4 Reams writing paper — it sells well, 20 Doz testaments — 10 Doz Bibles — and 1 to 150 4^o. Bibles @ \$4.25. 50 destruction of Jerusalem, *no more plays*, great many of Josephus . . . 1 to 200 Websters small d^o (grammar) . . . 20 Bards Compend.¹ . . .

. . . Thank God there is at last some appearance of a calm. And far be it from me to think of pulling out the plugs of Eolus. But I can't bear the touch of blame where no blame is deserv^d. You will tell me of deception towards you in not instantly saying yea or nay to your proposition to break the magna charta of my rights to have the books carried at your cost to the Court houses &c &c. I have told you that it is to be accounted for very plainly by my long absences from this place. . . .
All haste.

¹ 'Bard's Compendium of the Theory and practice of Midwifery, 12 mo. — 1 25' *Carey's* 1742-1821, was President of the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons. *Catalogue*, 1816, p. 98, 1c. — Samuel Bard,

'The Rev. M. L. Weems will preach a Sermon, addressed to the Candidates for Degrees, on Tuesday next, in the Chapel of the University.'

Georgia Express (Athens), Aug. 4, 1810, UN'YGA.

L. & F. Vol. 79.

WATKINSVILLE, Aug. 10, 1810.

. . . Three days ago I call^d at Athens University where I collected 230 Dolls. Ask^d for many books which I had not . . . why not keep me in full blast? I pray you to send *on immediately* the books mention^d in my last . . .

This *moment* I start for Jones Court, thence for 6 Courts in 6 successive weeks. God prosper me. Send me a famous collection. Why, in Gods name, won't you put AS I TEN THOUSAND TIMES BEGG^d you, the catalogues in my box. Nothing will ever be done as it ought while there is any grumbling — You want money; then, why say I grumble because I asked you for books which will bring you money?

. . . Do the best you can — & I will. Shall write soon with your money

[*Unsigned.*]

L. & F. Vol. 79.

EDENTON, GEORGIA. Sep. 11. 1810.

I have but a moment to tell you that I am going on in the old way. The results of my labours you shall hear more about in one fortnight or so. Don't be uneasy. I believe that all will do well. You say I am in a passion because you don't send so & so. If it be a passion it is the passion of grief to think what money I could raise from books which you have lying in Philad^a doing no service.

L. & F. Vol. 79.

MILLEDGEVILLE Septemb. 18. 1810

SIR Great sickness in the families of the Judges have [*sic*] prevented the good success that I might have had at the courts, which for that reason have twice fail'd to sit . . .

40 Bard's Compend. This book stuck to me like wax, but I call^d it, in my MSS catalogues, "The Grand American Aristotle" and it sold like green peas in spring.

[M. L. W.]

'Books, Wisdom & Virtue to Georgia, forever! Mr. Weems's Flying Library,¹ comprising a large assortment of the best books will parade at Eatonton, the first four days of the Military School; and on Monday will *open* at Milledgeville with the Honorable the Superior Court of the county of Baldwin. In a happy republic, like ours, where for the prize of Fame and Fortune all start *fair* and *fair alike*; where everything depends on *merit*, and that Merit is all dependant on Education, it is hoped that wise & generous parents will need no persuasion to give their children those very great advantages which Books afford. An appropriate ORATION on the benefits of Education, will be pronounced on Saturday 11 o'clock at Eatonton, and on Monday morning 9 o'clock in Milledgeville.'

[Unsigned.]

Georgia Journal (Milledgeville), Sept. 19, 1810, AAS.

L. & F. Vol. 79.

AUGUSTA Oct. 5, 1810.

I shall be at the Legislature — &c. &c. keep up supply of Federal Calculators. . . . Prompter . . . Life of Buonoparte and Franklin . . . Geo. Buchannan.' . . . The prospects begin to brighten, & cou'd I but get exoneration, or properly speaking separation from Mr Wayne, I shou'd be happy. Not but I cordially love him — but because he is done with books all but Washington and that book may divert my attention e're long from your Business. Cou'd you but make a bargain with Mr. Wayne, which I am pretty confident *you easily might* for the residue of his edition of Washington, at *long instalments* I am confident, Deo adjuvant, that I cou'd with your present stock, & with the books which you might get in ex[change] for Marshall's Washington, make *treble* the money to meet your engagements with him. The Almanac cannot be here *too soon*. 3000 perhaps will be enough, I have written to

¹ Perhaps Weems borrowed this phrase 'Walking Stationers,' from the imprint of several from 'the Company of Flying Stationers, also of the early Chap Books printed at Banbury.

Doct Harall for an Alm^e for the year 1811, but cannot hope to get one sent to you, for 4 weeks yet. Ca'nt it be done for this latitude & entitled the Franklin Georgia Almanac ¹ & sent off *at once*? . . .

L. & F. Vol. 79.

[No caption, bound with 1810.]

The ship is aground. Who had the misfortune to run her there is not now the question, but rather who shall get her off, who shall lay the storm, disperse the black clouds, get her into port, and cover over our evening of life with light & Joy, that's what we have now supremely to attend to. Well I see how all this is to be done just as clearly as you can see the way from your door to the market And had I it to give, I w^d give a great deal that you cou^d see it as I see, and feel as I feel the extent and magnitude of the fair prospect now before me. I have travell'd a great deal from New York to the Oconee but no where have I seen such an opening for a large Book store conducted by a man of Intelligence, activity and popular manners: One who can dash around with his books to the Courts; preach with the Preachers reason with the Lawyers & Doctors, and render himself dear to the Leading Characters of Society, themselves purchasing his books and recommending them to all their Friends & Neighbours. My success in the two last weeks is enough to convince you what I cou^d do had I but a complete Assortment. You have perhaps 50 or 60.000 Doll^s. worth of Books that are now doing no great service. You have also great numbers at Fredericksb^g, Falmouth, Lynchburg, Richmond, &^e. &^e. &^e. Out of all these with but trifling expense you cou^d make me up an Assortment out of which I cou^d [*vend?*] 40.000 Doll^s in two years. I tell you again it is not easy to form an idea of what may be done in this Country even tho cotton shou^d continue at its present low price of 11 and 12 Cents the pound. But if you are afraid to send more, send instantly only 2 to 3000 and let the future be judg'd from their success. Jackson's bookkeeping is much wanted here. Neat cheap editions of the Clerks Magazine, & Doct^r Franklins life w^d do admirably. I cou^d sell a great many of Josephus. The bad policy of precipitating so many books on me at Dumfries is most manifest & mournful in regard to the

¹ If an edition of this was ever printed, I have failed to find a copy.

Select Speeches. One Influential Character at Sparta has obtain^d 22 Sub^s. I shall send all I have to him today. I pack'd a noble trunk full of them at Dumfries. Cou'd you instantly send on the 50 Doll^s. I beg you, to Mr Brundige for my family & desire Mr. B. to push off the large trunk in the safest & quickest way he can direct to Doct. Harall, Savanna. I could quickly turn it into cash. Follow my Plans & all will yet be *Well*. . . .

As my last & first wish, desire Mr. Brundige to pay Mr^s. Weems & the Children seventy five dolls directly.

L. & F. Vol. 79.

CARNESVILLE, FRANKLIN COUNTY, Octob. 10, 1810.

. . . After all my labours with you I have never taken out of Mr Waynes hands money enough to bind what I had on hand of Blair's Sermons. He now wishes to know what he shall do with them & a box or two of my old books. I pray you to put them away carefully in some dry safe place. And if I am to stay here this winter have 50 or 100 of Blair Bound and sent to me . . .

L. & F. Vol. 79.

AUGUSTA, Octob. 29, 1810.

. . . It grieves me to find that you are always anxious, alarm'd, and complaining, when God knows I work as hard and take as much care as I possibly can. Not thinking the little up country post offices safe, nor indeed the grand mail stages perfectly infallible in matters of money I thought it my duty to you to concentrate all my monies into good drafts *from Augusta*. I lose too greatly by coming down and leav^e, sometimes opportunities for selling books. You say too *I still call for books, still call for books*. Well, for whose sake do I call for books? Is it not *yours*, as well & much more than mine. If you w^d but follow my plans & give me the necessary time to mature my plans, you w^d in one or two years see sales of books that you have at present no idea of. And at much less cost to you than at present. Under the correct impression that no man can serve two Masters, I propos^d to you to buy out the ballance of Marshall's Washington from Wayne, if you could do it cheap and for

long installments. You will probably listen to your fears in this matter, but if so, it will be the most imprudent thing you ever did. Mind I tell you so. What am I to do? Could you make arrangements with Wayne so that I cou'd spend the winter in this Country I cou'd sell you many a thousand dollars before May & then come on & digest some grand plan for future operations . . . My Life of Washington will soon be wanted. Marion sells well. We are miserably deficient in little reading books of about 25/100 with cuts. If you cou'd send me a copy of my book of wit & jest, you have — I want to compile a little piece of *Choice Moral Wit*,¹ & give it a *popular title* which I have at hand, it w^d sell admirably. *turn over*

Best wishes to Mrs. Carey & Family. I pray you send M^{rs} [Weems] by M^r. Brundige, 100 Dollars — for of the last 2070 I ordered for her but 100!!! and if you have any love for my little family who are poor enough indeed, you will oblige me by laying out another 100 of my part of this money, 200 weight of candles, & 50 lbs. of common soap . . . and be so good as to send 50 pair of cheap strong shoes for my children from three years to my girls at fourteen. Good M^{rs} Carey will chuse & as cheap as she can — please send instantly and direct to Tim Brundige. Dumfries.

[*Unsigned.*]

L. & F. Vol. 79.

AUGUSTA, NOV. 1. 1810

. . . But my advice, as the most correct view of the subject is that you enter into some arrangement with M^r Wayne. He will sell very cheap on long payments. And you see that tho I have been here 9 months and for a long time destitute of the *best* books such as school & religious &c &c, yet I have sent you about 8000 Dollars besides some that I have sent to M^{rs} Weems, & some that I have paid for all the charges attendant.

Cotton is rising — prospects look better & in a year or two with proper management *immense* sales may be made . . . The whole of the upper

¹ Neither of these issues found, but see *Bibliography*, title 242A.

Country of Georgia, S Carolina, N. Carolina & Virg^a w^d be tributary to you to a vast amount annually. I pray^d you to ship instantly for M^{rs}. Weems 200 lb Candles, 50 lb. soap & 50 pair tolerantly decent shoes for persons from 3 to 15 years. The Mechanics in the stalls used to sell me such right cheap . . . The worthy young men who keep my store here for me are printing a little Methodist hymn book. . . . Write to me immediately.

L. & F. Vol. 79.

MILLEDGEVILLE Nov. 16, [1810.]

I snatch a moment to tell you how I am going on — Ten days ago I left Augusta for Saundersville whither I had carried my books in hope of gleaning, at least, something from their Superiour Court then to have been in cession. But as the Devil, or which I suppose is about the same thing, the Judges & Lawyers, w^d have it the Court was *adjourn^d*. So I was non suited there. I immediately, thence, made the best of my way to this place, where I have been only six days, in which time, thank God, I have collected 33 Doll^s. Tomorrow I set off for Eatonton for the Superior Court. God prosper me there! . . .

Cou'd things but be settled with M^r Wayne — & Books as to *choice & direction* &c &c be left to me you w^d see golden days by & bye. But I never expect it . . .

‘The Rev’d M. L. Weems will deliver a *Discourse on the Importance of Education*, in the Representative Chamber of the State House, on Thursday Evening at early candle light.’

‘M. L. WEEMS begs leave very respectfully to inform the Honourable the Gentlemen of the Legislature, that his FLYING LIBRARY will leave town on Friday morning.

‘Those who mean to procure some good books will please honor him with their attention as soon as convenient. And such as choose may make selections by giving parole to pay George R. Clayton, Esq., at the final adjournment of the Legislature. Liberal allowance made to those benevolent characters who take several copies of Washington and Marion for Christmas Boxes to their young relations.

“God prosper long our noble state!”
In Wisdom, Wealth, and Peace,
And Grant that Reading now too rare,
May day by day increase.¹

‘Merchants may have Bibles, Testaments, Spelling books, &c. at a reduced price.’

Georgia Journal (Milledgeville), Nov. 28, 1810, UN¹GA.

Reprinted in *Publisher's Weekly*, November 25, 1922, p. 1936.

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 79.

AUGUSTA, Dec. 8. [1810.]

. . . I find that since the first of February, i.e, within the last ten months, I have sent you upwards of 8000 Doll^s. Very confident I am that could they but have been as I wanted, I should in the same time have sent 15000. . . . It is with selling books as with everything else, “Practice makes perfect.” . . .

L. & F. Vol. 79.

COLUMBIA, S.C. Dec. 18. [1810.]

. . . You think me rapacious, and that I have got too much of a profit. That, for what I know, might be adjusted to mutual satisfaction, for God is witness I want but little more than decent maintenance of my Family . . . If from the 1st of Feb. making a little more than 10 months, and under such disadvantages of endless squabbling, long delays, imperfect supplies & lowest ebb prices for Cotton, I have sent you upwards of 8.000 Doll^s. what might not be done on a very different posture of affairs? . . . But our state of uncertainty keeps everything in fatal suspense.

¹ These verses seem modelled after those to be found on the title page of *The Philanthropist*, Bibliography, title 157. See also p. 36 in this volume.

*L. & F. Vol. 79.**[Postmarked Stateb^g, S.C. Dec. 25, 1810.]*

. . . but thank God, I obtain^d from the Legislature, tho nearly on the wing, 600 Doll^s. which I this day paid to my friend Col^o Taylor, (father of Col^o Taylor in Congress) who has monies in *Charleston*, . . .

Now, I pray you to listen — In the Course of 15 Weeks I have sent

2050

7700

1000

600

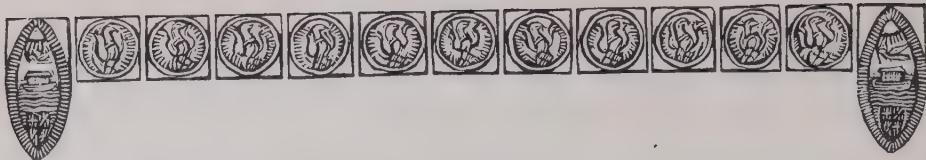
4350

saying nothing of monies paid for freightage, waggonage, Postage &c &c

Now of this, my part was nearly 1100 Doll^s, which, had it been sent on to my poor Wife & Children, w^d have enabled them to get some little matter of merchandize or other to defray contingent expences. But instead of 1000, I have not sent them 400 Doll^s I therefore intreat you instantly, (on getting the 600 from Doct. Moser) to desire M^r Brundige to pay M^{rs}. Weems 250 Doll^s — her letters to me here of late have been very painfull — To part with a husband for comfort for her Children and yet to be often depriv^d of those comforts must be a great trial to a woman of any feeling . . . I have thoughts of getting out a subⁿ paper for Davies's Sermons. I doubt not but I could sell 3000 copies. What do you think of it? What could it be done for in 3 Duod^o Vol. neatly b^d, long primer type Write instantly. Wou'd you but enter into my plans, you might without *any risk* on earth, in 10 years be worth 50.000\$ more than you are now.¹

¹ Letters between Weems and Major Peter Horry, in the years 1810 and 1811, relating to the *Life of Marion*, may be found in *Views and*

Reviews, William Gilmore Simms, Second Series, 1845.



*A desultory way of writing.
A hop, step, and jump mode of inditing.*
— PETER PINDAR.

L. & F. Vol. 80.

AUGUSTA, Jan^y. 17, 1811.

SIR. in my last, from Columbia, I inform^d you that I was at that place attending the Legislature on the heel of their Session. Owing to lack of time & scarcity of Carriages I cou'd get conveyance for but about 900 Doll^s. worth. In the few days of my stay there I sold about 600 Doll^s. . . .

Having been ever since I came to Georgia, in the habit of sending you considerably more than *your part*, I begg^d you to pay M^{rs} Weems & my children 350 of the 600 Doll^s. Immediately after the Session, which closed a few days before Christmass, I was about to return to Augusta, but learning that an immense Association of Divines was to sit in Columbia in [*sic*] Christmass, the idea struck me that I woud wait & engage their Assistance in Josephus & Bucks Theolog. Diction'y. This I accomplish^d in part. Then hearing that there was to be a large Concourse of People at Statesburg & Manchester, I immediately started with about 200 Doll^s worth in my gigg, leaving an elegant party with the Cidevant Governor at table. I got back to Columbia on the 13th inst. when I learnt of the dreadful visitation wherewith Heaven had been pleas^d to visit Augusta.¹ Mess^{rs}. Starnes, three remarkably honest, frugal & industrious young men with whom your books were placed, have lost to their last cent on earth, except their press & a few types. Some others are in the same situation. For the fire, which broke out at dead of night, had made such progress before the People were alarm^d that it [*left*] but little time to save anything. Mess^{rs} S. think that their house was in flames in 20 or 30 minutes after they heard the first cry of fire. From the fond hope that I might have done something, I bitterly lamented that I was not in Augusta at the time. But from

¹ The first great fire there, recorded.

report, I shou'd not perhaps have been able to do much good. God knows it has cost me many a heartache. Tho' I can truly say, more on your account than my own, tho' my loss was about 400 Doll^s. perhaps. My trunk, with clothes & other things, was burnt, as also were most of the furniture & clothes of the family, which, like my own, was very poor before. But still my trouble has been chiefly on *your account*. As to *myself*, I hope God will make it a great blessing to me. I am in no humour to *preach*, but I cant help saying, for I feel it, that money is not our Summum Bonum. There is, *certainly*, a something infinitely above that; and this something is nothing less than a Filial temper towards God. This, the highest Glory & Comfort of the poor human heart, I am seeking above all things. And if the subtraction of Creaturely Comforts will exercise & strengthen in me this Divine Sentiment, then welcome losses. Tho' my honesty & unacquaintedness with business have kept me poor in spite of all my industry & frugality, yet I will not much repine if God will but give me the better for the inferior Goods that he takes from me. I am now hard at work, assorting the books that were saved. To what amount the loss has reached I cannot tell. Tho' I repeatedly intreated a list in every box, yet numbers of the books came without; and the books being unpriced, left it impossible for us to carry out & cast up the amount. But in a few days hope to make a guess. In the meantime I can say I wish much to know your determination. Were *my* opinion ask'd, I w^d answer that we ought not to lay it to heart, no not for one single moment. That it is *Gods Will* ought to be enough for us. He certainly gives wealth, for our Life, health, & capacities to make it, are all of him. And as we ought to receive it from him with thankfulness, so we ought to part with it again to him with *cheerfulness*. Nothing can be so grateful to the KING of the Universe as to see his Rational Creatures give back his gifts with cheerfulness. T'is such a compliment paid to his *Wisdom & Goodness*, as must needs please him very highly; and ensure his blessing, on our future exertions. We are yet but little past the noon of Life; we have a thousand times more wisdom & skill than when we began; We know too the incalculable value of Knowledge & Virtue, or in other words, of Good Books to Mankind; and now with all these great advantages shall we be dishearten'd and held back from doing all that Great Good to our Country which

both Humanity and Interest so loudly call on us to do!!! I tell you, Mr. Carey, and I speak it as in God's presence & from the deepest conviction of its truth, that w^d you but follow my counsel, you shou'd become the Greatest Friend to this Southern & Western Country, that God ever rais'd up to them. The demand for *Good Books*, and my opportunities of distributing them are rising beyond anything you can conceive. In 10 years, with no more than an ordinary blessing, I cou'd to a certainty sell you *three hundred thousand Dollars worth*; and with no more risk than is common to all commercial undertakings. Finish y^r negotiations with M^r. Wayne, who will deduct w^t he knows he owes me, — In 3 or 4 weeks the Courts will begin, then let me ply con spirito, placing at the same time as I go along, into *Right hands* the books that are here, with orders to remit to you every 50 dollars collected. Then winding up M^r Waynes old business (of which there is but little) push on thro Virginia & the stores there, taking all the monies along to you, prepare for a grand attack, next summer, Autumn & Winter on Georg^a & N. & S. Carolinas & Virginia. I conclude with declaring that w^d you but bow to the Will of Heaven, think nothing of the *past*, and bend with double vigour to the future, & let me plan & execute for you in this Country, you shou'd in a little time, & *without much expense at the outset*, find your fond hopes gloriously crown'd with success; and a success too that shou'd increase for many years.

I shall soon begin to remit.

L. & F. Vol. 80.

[Augusta?] Jan'y 31. 1811

SIR. I have just finish^d assorting and putting up the books, which, having in the hurry & consternation of the moment, been thrown into the sandy streets, were both dirtied & confounded beyond anything that you can conceive. Not wishing to bring any more expence on you, I help^d too to put up coarse shelves for the purpose. I find that the books sav^d amount to

	4462.93½ <i>perfect</i>
and of	705.57 <i>imperfect</i>
Besides, <i>sold</i> while assort ^d	68.38
	\$5236.88½

Happily, I had waggon^d great numbers of the Books to the up Country, so that it is very likely that not more than 5 or 6000 Doll^s worth of books have been taken from you. I say *taken* away, for I do verily hope that there is no such thing as *Chance* in the world. Then if your losses and mine, in this case be not of chance but *design* and that of Infinite Wisdom too, then surely we ought to be resign'd & to pray to God to make it turn out well for us.

You say that the undertaking has turn^d out very different from all *reasonable expectation*. Well, it has not turn^d out different from *mine*. Observe, I find, that on casting up everything, I have sent you about 10,000 Doll^s within 11 Months. Now 10,000 pr. year from a stock of 30,000 Doll^s. *may not do* But 10,000 a year from 10,000 or 12,000 w^d do well. And that was my plan & constant view of the Subject. Cou'd I but have been permitted to start, the first year, with only 10,000 doll^s of *Good* books, and left on these to make my way good for *all future supplies*, I sh^d have succeeded. However the thing is at an end, and there let it rest. As to your proposition for the Bible I am well pleas^d with it. I think that a Great Fortune may be made by it in 10 years. Nor is this a novel idea. For I always told you so. And it was in consequence of your being told this so unceasingly & importunately for 2 whole years that you at last undertook the Bible. The Courts begin again week after next. God willing, I shall fall to again, and I look to him for comfort & strength to go on. This undertaking & then breaking up without giving the *means* & *time* that I always said were necessary, together with my losses by this fire, and my 17th month absence from my Family are very trying things. But God, I hope, will bring all things out well yet. I have a little money for you, which I shall send in *whatever* way you may direct. At any rate tis a great comfort to me to know that I have given you innumerable proofs that as far as your books or money depend on *me*, all is safe.

L. & F. Vol. 80.

CLINTON. Feb. 16 1811.

D^r SIR—I have again commenced the Campaign, and thank God, cold & bitter as the weather has been, & short as the Court here has

been (thro the indisposition of Judge Earley) ¹ yet I have in a few days receiv^d 300 Dollars. . . .

Besides the 300 collected by myself I have of monies rec^d as *I told you* at Statesburg & Camden and other little *Gimcrack places* 200 Dollars more — and of my deposit at Milledgville 150, making 650. Woud God you had it. The uncertainty in which I am as to the places, whither I shall turn my exertions 'twixt this & the 1st day of May renders it impossible for me to tell you where to meet me with a letter. I have some thought of sending it by safe hands to the Presid^t of the Augusta Bank, Tho^s Cumming Esq^r,² to take care of it for you & subject to your order.

Tomorrow I dash (the waggon is just started) for Monticello, the 10 house Metropolis of *Randolph County*. I pray you to send, if you *have not already* sent it, the 350 Doll^s I pray^d you to send to M^{rs}. Weems. God knows she & her children are nearly starv^d by this time if the money was not sent. For, depend^g on you, I sent them no money. I lose no *moment of time*. I took none of your money, nay much less than I ought, therefore I trust you will not treat me ill. As to the Bible I have long had on my mind a *grand scheme* to get it [*a?*] *circulation uncommon*, & to render it still more profitable than it is at present.

Write to me to Pendleton Court house South Carolina — Love to M^{rs}. C & Family —

[*M. L. W.?*]

*'God prosper long the CHURCH and STATE;
In WISDOM, WEALTH and PEACE,
And grant, that reading — now too rare,
May every day increase.*

¹ Judge Peter Early, one of the illustrious family of Virginia Earlys, was descended from an Irish immigrant who came to Virginia in 1661. Graduated at Washington College, in Virginia; studied law and was Judge of the Superior Court of Georgia, Ocmulgee Circuit, 1807-1813. Succeeded Mitchell as governor in 1813, serving one term only and being followed again by Mitchell, who was elected for the third time. Early died a State Senator. See *The Story of Georgia and the Georgia People, 1732 to 1860*,

George Gillman Smith, D.D., Macon, Ga., 1900, p. 296 [LC.]. Also *Twentieth Century Biographical Dictionary of Notable Americans*.

² Thomas Cummings married Ann Clay, youngest child of Joseph Clay, a member of the Provincial Congress and holding other public offices, and from these two descend the Cummings of Georgia. See *Historical Collections of the Joseph Habersham Chapter*, Daughters of the American Revolution, Atlanta, Ga., 1902, 1c.

In consequence of the late Christmas Bonfire in this place, the large BOOK STORE is removed to Mr. Foley's [?] dwelling, the first *brick house* on the *right hand*, upper end of broad street . . . Latin, Greek, French and English Books . . . Almanacs for 1811 for 62 1-2 cents per dozen.'

[*Unsigned.*]

Augusta Chronicle, Feb. 16, 1811, *et seq.*, UN⁹GA.

L. & F. Vol. 80.

GREENSBORO. March 4. [1811.]

SIR — Agreeble to your order I send you the halves of 6 notes, all of 100 Doll^s — 600. I have much more for you but am afraid to send all by one mail — shall send by other mails, and *perhaps regularly* — since you dont want Drafts —

I pray you to give orders to Mr. B[rundige] to pay M^{rs} Weems 100 Doll^s. I had a distressing letter from her last night. The articles & money I begg^d, not yet sent, Shall write next mail, this closes instantly —

L. & F. Vol. 80.

GREENSBORO. Mar. 8. 1811

SIR—I sent you from this place 4 days ago, the 2^d half of 6 notes 100 each. By the mail which starts on monday next I send you the 1st. halves of said notes — with 2^d halves of 3 notes of 100 each — making 900 Dollars; I have, thank God, more which I shall send on de temps en temps. I had hop'd, that, whatever might have been your future plans, all past heart burnings and complaints had been laid asleep. But I find my hopes were fallacious.

You say “*you want no altercation.*” God knows I want none nor ever did want any. But when a Gentleman continues to write most unfairly & bitterly as you do — when he continues to reiterate the most *unjustifiable charges* flowing from much *Love of himself* and from equal hate of *me*; and made up of the most partial views of the subject, wherein everything in *my* favor is totally annihilated and every thing, *for him*, is monstrously magnified and blacken'd, in such case what am I to do? Is it proper that you should be permitted to go on, *unanswer'd*,

to repeat these illiberal charges untill you come at length (aided by *my silence*) firmly to believe them all, and thence to set me down as the veriest Rascal on earth? No, Sir, Justice, as well to *you*, as to *myself*, forbids me such silence. And Humanity, if I possess'd but a drop of it in all my veins, w^d call on me to drive out that nail of iron like prejud[ic]e now sticking in your heart, before it have time to canker incurably, This, for the last time, I shall endeavor to do, not by following you in all your multifarious charges, but by lighting up the *Lamps of a few facts* which I hope you yourself with all your prejudice against me, will acknowledge to be *most sacred*. In spring, perhaps, 1808, you tendered me by *letter*, a coadjutancy of 80 to 100,000 Doll^s worth of books. And on my arrival in Philad^a, that Autumn, you *spoke* to me on the same subject. Did I fly upon the offer as a hungry dog upon a fat carcase? No, you know I did not. For tho' my increasing years & the pressing wants of my family w^d give great charm to any proffer of honest gain, yet, *long & bitter and cursed experience* had taught me to dread such a proffer. It was to my apprehension as I *have told* you a 1000 times, like a Dwarf going a warfaring with a Giant. Those blows that w^d not graze you w^d crush *me*. At length, being again mov^d on the subject, I consented to cooperate with you. And I consented to it, as God knows & you know too, from the well grounded *hope & express stipulation* of having from 200 to 250 stores of books in aid of my *own personal sales*. And these stores were to consist of the best *school books* with 40 or 50 varieties of the *ad captandum pieces*. Yes, and I *repeat it*, of *ad captandum pieces*. These were what I wanted, and none else. I wanted none of those books that *might or might not sell*; books the like of which any even the commonest Carpenter might "saw & plane" out of a maple slab of pine, such as, "Miller's Retrospect" — "Adam's Defence,"¹ and innumerable other many volum'n'd masses of Antedeluvian Law & Divinity. These I well knew never w^d answer our *two great objects* in selling books, viz. to *enlighten* the World & to *enrich ourselves*. To this *end*, I requested that your books shou^d "pass review" before me. Accordingly they did for two days *pass review*. The parlour floor, for two days, was cover'd with books which I mark^d as a Shepherd w^d his favorite Lambs. Well, all this you know to be just as true as anything in the WORD OF GOD. And

¹ John Adams' *Defence of the Constitutions and Government of the United States*.

now here comes the Gall & Wormwood of the whole. — One hole has sunk many a stately ship. One error ruin'd Hannibal. No wonder that *two* errors should have ruin'd us. For proof that *two* errors have been committed I now appeal to YOURSELF. Did I not say, "Mr. Carey, you have a large house, story on story, shelf above shelf; now from books thus fairly laid out, how easy a thing to assort & pack a trunk or box." But in place of this, 20 or 30 monstrous packages were shipp'd off at once, and all in mass, *all in pie*, as you say of types confounded. Well, did I not say, "Mr. Carey, the People among whom I am going, differ very widely in their political sentiments, & in their religious characters, *Ec Ec Ec Ec Ec*. In one neighbourhood the *Majority* are *Methodists*, in another, *Baptists*. Here they cry out for Jefferson, there for Adams. Hence, Books which in *one* place w^d go off *like a flash*, w^d in another lie till doom's day on the shelves. Let me go thro' the Country, thro' the Rich & flourishing settlements *especially, and ascertain* the books, and then do you follow my instructions to a tittle. The books, thus going of right sorts to right places, will sell off in a trice, & the monies be remitted to you without any "*dead stock*," (as I repeated your own words) to eat up the profits. But instead of following this plan, than which not Washington cou'd have devised anything better, the Books (at the *outset*, I mean) were push'd off perfectly at random, and left to *chance* whether they w^d suit or not. They were push'd off, as aforesaid, *all in pie*, and left to *me* to *unpack*, & assort, & repack, besides to get them from Alexand^a to the mouth of Dumfries Creek,¹ & thence up to Dumfries, & thence back to the mouth of Dumfries Creek again, & thence again up to Alexand^a, and thence I had to ride about looking for fit places to dispose them in, and then to give orders for the conveyance of them by waggons. Thus, owing to the delays by Ice & frost &c &c full *three months* were lost before a single book was sold.!!! And after all, when the books were open^d it was found that one half of them were utterly unsaleable, because unsuitable to the uses of their respective neighbourhoods. Now, for the same thing on an extended view. I left Philad^a the 10th Jany. 1809. I got home, say, about the 23^d. I fell to unpacking the books that were arriv^d. This done, I had to stop & wait for those not come to hand, *because of the ice*. Waiting for them, assorting, re-

¹ Quantico Creek.

packing, reshipping &c brought me to near the middle of March or first of April. I then fell to work, sometimes fixing the stores, sometimes myself attending the Courts. Things went on in this way till the last of June when dashing over the rocks and ridges of the Blue Mountains, I brought on me a protrusion & inflammation of a bowel. This confin'd me, in much torture, for 4 weeks. Learning then from your letters that a shipment of books cou'd hardly arrive in less than 2 or three weeks, & being yet too infirm to recommence my hard labours, I embrace^d this as a fit opport^y to go & see my two only brothers & the place that gave me birth; but still keeping in sight the store-fixing business. About the latter end of August I fell to work again, attended two or 3 Courts, sold some books, and remitted monies. I then push^d off to Richmond to receive a large Cargo for that Country. Here again I was detain^d nearly a fortnight waiting for the rear of the aforesaid Cargo, which having, unfortunately, been plac^d on board of a 2^d Vessel was hinder'd that length of time. Now, tho' the cargo above mention^d, consisting of excellent books, was destin'd for my own exertions at Court houses; yet was it not so employ^d. For having, by my counsel, shipp^d a fine cargo for Columbia, S. Carol^a, you consented that I shoud *store* the books shipp^d to James River, & push off with all speed to the S. Carol^a Legislature. Thus from the 1st of Feb^y, to the 1st of Novemb, even 9 months, hardly more than 3 good months — work was done. The ballance of the time, full six months, being miserably wasted partly by disastrous delays of the shipments, but chiefly was it lost in tedious & laborious efforts to get over the difficulties thrown in the way, by *setting out wrong at the first*. Thus, in few words, which I hope you will acknowledge to be most true, have I given a history of our misfortunes in *Virginia*. All flowing from *putting the cart before the horse*, i.e, of sending the books before me instead of sending me before the Books, — and also of pouring them in such myriads on such an insignificant out of the way place as *Dumfries*; and also of sending them so incongruously, so *dissortedly*, and therefore so inevitably doom'd to those delays & disasters which ensued. In my *next* letter, (to contain the 1st halves of this 2^d remittance, together with more money) I shall give you the history of our misfortunes here in Georg^a & *the true cause* of them. Now, on a retrospect of what I have said, which you well know to be substantially true, you will, I trust,

acknowledge that our misfortunes, or ill successes in Virg^a, have nothing at all about them of the *miraculous*. Any man who knows the physical connection between *wrong means* & *wrong Ends* could no otherwise than have predicted it, and yet you say, "*things have fallen so far short of all reasonable expectations!!*"

L. & F. Vol. 80.

LEXINGTON March 15, 1811

SIR—. . . In my last I analyze^d the causes of your misfortunes in *Virginia*, and pointed your attention to their genuine sources. My phrases are, sometimes at least, of that quaint sort which is not easily forgotten. And you yourself must needs remember that in my many & earnest intreaties with you to let me go forward & choose books for the places, I often observed to you that by adopting the contrary course, i.e. of pushing on *the books at random*, you w^d frequently commit errors equal to those of sending "*Fiddles to Methodist meetinghouses.*" To this *almost single error*, of sending wrong books to wrong places, i.e. such quantities of *unsaleable* & *unassorted* books to such an out-of-the-way place as Dumfries, I ascribe much of our misfortunes in Virg^a. For scarcely, by the time you expected remittances, were the books arrived at their proper *stations!!* I will now with equal calmness and clearness point to the reasons why the undertaking in Georgia has fallen so far short of what you term "all reasonable expectations." The Books shipp^d for the South, were all for Columbia, at the Session of the Legislature. Hence they were chiefly historical, Political, Philosophical &c. &c. Owing to causes which I could not controul, they did not reach Columbia. Learning, that, at Augusta, whither my duty to M^r. Wayne led me, there were to be Racings, Gamblings, & other things to bring People together, I order^d the books up from Charleston to Augusta. They arriv^d — they were expos^d for sale, and, tho by no means of the best kind, nor in full & complete assortment, (having scarcely a Religious or a School book among them, at least *very few* of such) yet I made shift, by great industry & vigilance to give you such an account of them as encourag^d you to try the business farther by additional supplies. Of these Recruits some were of the right, but more of the wrong sort. Books that I did not want were sent in shoals. Books, for which I was

continually torn in pieces, & for which I was continually writing, were never sent, and this particularly was the fatal case with the Law & Medical books. At every Court house, the Lawyers, the Physicians, the Mechanics w^d pour around me, “*Well, thank God, you are come at last, so now where’s my “Impy’s practice,”*¹ my “*McNally on evidence,”*² my “*Hawkin’s pleas of the Crown.”*³ — my “*Rush’s Sydenham*”⁴ my “*Blumenbach*”⁵ &c. &c. &c. &c.! To all these eager questions, these high & assured expectations, I had no answer to make but by blank looks & pitiful apologies. Thus was not only my purse kept lean, but my life also was cruelly robb^d of peace & comfort. I had told you, before, in Virginia, that I cou’d not bear to be disappointing People, and sending them to other Merchants, and that rather than suffer such shame & loss I w^d gladly resign to you all the profit except 5 pr Cent, if you w^d get any of your friends, Book-sellers, to send me such books, *in demand*, as you had not. You replied that you w^d assuredly keep me supplied. But you see that instead of enabling me to act on the broad & glorious plan, first *£ solemnly stipulated*, of 200 to 250 handsome *little ad capitandum* stores, I was reduc^d to one single store under my own agency, & even that for *half* of my time but *half supplied* with the right books. You may think I am angry for this. Most People w^d be so indeed, especially if like me, they had, no dependence for bread & education for their families but on their own exertions. But thank God I can talk of such cruel disappointments & injuries to me without much emotion. I see so many curses growing out of Riches given to young People that I am very easy on that score about my children. I am more hurt on another account; i.e, the total blasting of the very fond & high hopes which I once entertain^d of doing great Good to the Country by dis-

¹ John Impey’s *Practice of the Court of Common Pleas*, or his . . . of the Court of King’s Bench, both of which went through many editions.

² Leonard MacNally’s [1752–1820] *Rules of Evidence on Pleas of the Crown*. A Philadelphia 1811 edition was listed in *Carey’s Catalogue of Law Books*, July, 1821, LC.

³ William Hawkins’ [1673–1746] *Treatise on Pleas of the Crown*. The LC. has London 1788 and 1824 editions.

⁴ *The Works of Thomas Sydenham, M.D., on Acute and Chronic Diseases* . . . By Benjamin Rush, M.D., . . . Philadelphia. Published by Benjamin & Thomas Kite . . . 1809, LC.

⁵ Blumenbach, Johann Friedrich, 1752–1840. *A short system of comparative anatomy*, London, 1807, [LC.]; or perhaps, *Elements of Physiology*, of which LC^{PHIL.} has a 1795 translation. *Carey’s Catalogue*, 1818, also lists this latter work.

seminating thousands of Excellent Books among them. — And as if it were not a sufficient hardship on me to make me lose so much time in *unpacking, assorting, inventor^o, &c. &c.* — and then keeping me Eighteen, nay 20 months absent from one of the most loving families on the earth — and then to waste 3 or 4 months more in travelling & toiling to collect & repack & ship to Philad^a the Books that remain unsold — and, also to ruin one of the fairest prospects of accomplishing my FAVORITE WISH in the World, as if all this was not hardship enough on me, you wish to add to it by *throwing the blame on me!* But what grieves & astonishes most of all is to hear you say that the “*Enterprize has fallen so far short of all reasonable expectation.*” Now as to Virginia, the Enterprize set out *there*, as you have seen, with the *wrong foot foremost*. And by the time I had gotten things pretty right again, I was call^d off to this Country. Well, now, how has it fallen *short here?* I have been in Georgia, now, exactly 14 months: for 4 months of that time my Collection did not deserve the name of an assortment. Afterwards I rec^d to a large *amount* but still not of the *right sorts*. In a word, taking things *in toto* I have rec^d in *one year, say*, 16 thousand dollers worth of pretty good books. Of which in *remittances & payments*, I find enter^d nearly *12 thousand dollars cash*. I have indeed rec^d a vast deal more than 16,000 dollars worth: but the surplus were such books as, *with respect to this market*, might as well have been manufactur^d by a Carpenter as by a Printer.

NB. nearly the whole of the nearly 12,000 Doll^s have been sold by myself. Now had 16000\$ worth been sent to me, of books of my own choos^s & direct^s, I shou^d have remitted to you in *10 months* the whole amount, not leaving one for the fire to consume. I shall, by next mail, do for you what becomes me.

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WATKINSVILLE. March. 21, 1811

SIR . . . Sat prata biberunt — in plain English we’ve had more words than enough already — for God’s sake let the thing pass away like a cloud of the years that are gone. It Joys me much to think that I never began this cursed business of Crimination — no; tho’ the “*250 stores of books ad captandum*” were never given me, — tho’ the Books

for *my own sales* were never sent me, *according to orders*. Tho', in fine, fair play was never allow^d me; nor my fame permitted to rise; nor my wish, "to *circulate good books*," ever gratified ad plenum, nor my poor wife & children ever supplied, as I *wish'd & confided to you*, with even the NECESSARIES of *Life*, yet I was not the first to complain. Nor now do I write, nor of late have I written in the language of *retort*, but to prevent you from concluding in *reallity* what your letters seem to insinuate that you are the Angel, and that I am the Devil in the whole of this Affair — Now, quid verbis? What need is there to multiply words without end? I told you before, and I tell you *now*, and *now*, and *now again*, that tho' I have been so thwarted & disappointed in All my plans of cooperation with you, that after 15 years, of commencement, continuance & conclusion, I am now just about the same *Beggar I was at first*, yet do I not complain — I allow no angry thought to fix upon you as the sole Author of my misfortunes. My Hope is in a particular providence — I hope that whatever is is right. I say to myself, that for *me*, for *me*, so late enwrapp^d in darkness, & beneath the worm I tread on, to be now call^d up into Existence, the high Existence of a *Rational & Immortal Being*, it is enough & more than enough for Joy & Thankfulness eternal, that for my probationary three score years & ten I sh^d be steep^d up to the chin in labour & sorrows unceasing. Hence, when frustrated in all those plans for maintenance of my children which my Ignorance of Business had form'd, I cheerfully mounted my coverless gigg, and bid a *long* farewell to one of the Best & fondest Families in all this world. And here now, tho 700 miles distant from them, (after an absence of *17 mournful months*) and inform^d that they have been nearly starv^d this winter for want of the supplies which I had depended on you to send by Mr Brundige (living next door to my family & his *son* living next door to your Book Store in Baltimore), yet did I *not complain*. And now all that I ask of you is to let the matter die away for ever. I want to *Enlighten*, to *dulcify* & Exalt Human Nature — by GOOD BOOKS. This you might, in a wonderful manner, effectuate cou'd you but be prevailed on to follow my plan — plans altogether without risk & nearly without expence, (the difference of charges here *nearly payg for all*.) Your business therefore, *in my opinion*, is not to *look backward* on what you have lost (by the fire) but to look forward on what great Good you may do to

Mankind during the moment that lies betwixt you & the grave, and also what great emoluments you may bring to your Family by measures of *more prudence* than what we took *at first*. Because a thing does not succeed on bad plans we ought not to conclude it will not succeed *at all*. I tell you, as in God's presence, that great things may be done if you will but follow my counsel.

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PENDLETON, S. CAR. March 28 [1811]

SIR . . . You order the books that remain on hand to be sent back in toto. I think you may do better. Milledgville is now the Metropolis of Georgia. In 15 days I sold there 800 Dolls; and just before Christmas I left there 1300 Dolls with a Mr. Willm. Durreux, [*Devereaux*]¹ Post Master, a man in all honest & money-making respects equal to John Grammar or Tim Brundige. In 7 weeks after Christmass he paid me 150\$ Dolls. Now, as Milledgville is the Metropolis of Georgia, the place of Legislative session, the Lancaster of the Georgia up Country, that is the place of Rendezvous Universal, I w^d by all means on earth advise that you order me to make him up as good an Assortment as possible. As to *my* part of the profit, I leave that to yourself. I allow him 12½ pr. Cent. Suppose that in place of 25 you bring my commission down to 20. But do *that or less* if you so think proper. By all means let me make him up a good Assortment. There is not on Earth a Man who will better do you Justice; or who stands so good a *chance* in all the Western Country of Georgia. As it will cost a great deal to send back the books to Philad^a, wou'd it not be well that I sell as many as I can on 6 or 9 months credit, *with notes well endorsed*? And suppose I were to select about one waggon load say 3000 Dolls worth of the *best books*, & take a waggon along with me? By calling from Court house to Court house, on my way thro' the Carolinas I might sell perhaps 1500 or 2000 Dolls & perhaps not at an expence of more than 60 Dolls above what they w^d cost to get them to Philad^a.

I pray you instantly to order Mr Brundige to help Mr^s Weems to 50 or

¹ John W. Devereaux, postmaster, Milledgville, Ga., Oct. 1, 1810 (first return) — *Bk. No. 1*, pp. 382-383, P.O. Bldg., Washington, D.C.
(with one interruption) 1820+. See *P.O.Rec.*

100 Doll^s I also pray you to think what a lonesome & often weeping Wife with 8 children & an absent husband must suffer lacking the necessities of Life. I dont mind your cruel treatment of me, for my heart rejoices to think I *merit it not*; but I cant stand the thought of what my family has suffer^d this winter when I was work^g as hard as I cou^d for you.

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SPARTANBURG. S.C. Ap. 11. 1811

SIR. . . . I w^d advise you not to order around to Philad^a *such books* as will sell here. A vast number indeed, such as Law, heavy books of Science &c. &c. &c. that will not sell here ought to be reshipp^d. But many of the lighter sort w^d do well to be put into stores, in *proper places*, & with proper agents. They w^d certainly sell by the time I come back to this Country. I say, that certainly such w^d sell that I shou^d *select* for that purpose. There are two other ways in which I think I cou^d, on my way back, work off a good many for you. By selecting out of all that remain here, about 1500 or 2000 Doll^s. of *the best* — sending on by mail, *before me*, printed advertisements of my intentions to be at *such and such places*, on such & such days, to preach & to furnish Excellent & Cheap Books — and hiring a waggon from place to place. After going as far perhaps as N. Carolina & my books considerably reduc^d, I w^d then buy a horse in addition to the one now with me, & a little cheap waggon & come on by myself the rest of the way untill I shou^d fall in with the Bookstores on *James River*, Virginia.

However if I were to put myself to the expence & a considerable one it w^d be, of buying a horse & waggon, I trust you w^d allow something *pr diem* towards keeping the horses.

In short, it appears wrong policy to *order* around, at such risk & expence, those books that w^d sell here. And I also think that by one or the other of the latter plans I cou^d sell a good many books on my return to Virginia — I pray you to write to me immediately, giving instructions. If I shou^d do anything in the Bible business you propos^d, I shou^d have to pass thro this country once more. And *then* I cou^d collect all such *small select stores* or *parcels* that I w^d advise to be left here in *proper hands*, rather than be sent to Philad^a at much risk &

expençe to lie there some time. Write to me to "Milledgville Georgia." I pray you do not altogether forget M^{rs} Weems. I shall remit next week if I can get bills.

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[April? 1811.]

SIR. . . . I expected to have been 100 miles on my way to Virginia before this — But coming here the other day to wind up some little business my horse got founder^d on the hot sands — I shall set off tho' God willing the day after tomorrow. . . .

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ABBEVILLE DISTRICT. S. CARO^a. April 25, 1811

SIR . . . J'ai encore une quantite des gourds, lesquelles Je vous enverrai (d'Augusta) la Semaine prochaine. It will take me nearly all the coming month to rendezvous at Augusta for reshipment [of] all your books which (happily for you) I had deposited in different villages &c. In the week following I shall leave this Country By that time you can, if you have not already done it, (for I have not seen a line from you for 10 weeks, owing to my remoteness from Augusta) let me know whether you approbate my advice in a former letter, which was that I sh^d put into *proper hands & places* such books of the *Saleable sort* as we have here, rather than incur the expence & risk of reshipping them. Such books in such places w^d certainly sell by my return, to this Country on the grand bible expedition. And I a[d]vis^d also that you let me select a couple of thousand dollars worth of the most saleable sort and take along with me, selling on my rout northerly, sending on by mail little printed notifications of my intentions to meet & preach & dispense good books at such & such places. It is in this way that I have at this place sold nearly 100 dollars, altho' the busiest season of all the year, *cotton planting* —

If you have not written write instantly & address to me at Washington, Wilkes County, Georgia. Superior Court sits there the 1st day of June.

I trust you have not forgotten M^{rs}. Weems.

*L. & F. Vol. 81.*WASHINGTON [*Georgia*] May 25, 1811

SIR — . . . On Monday week shall attend the *last court* — After which I shall set out as soon as possible for Virg^a

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AUGUSTA, June 14, 1811.

SIR,

April 30. sent you	
from Augusta & Milledgeville	700
May from Milledg. & Elberton	200
May again from Washington & Sparta	400
And yesterday — deposited <i>in this bank</i>	1500
	2800
And now I send you	100
	\$2900

And this have I done, thro' the great goodness of God, in so short a time & in the *worst season* of the year, & cotton at only 10 cents pr pound. But now there is an end. Cou'd I but have had *my way* — And the Books I was eternally *importun'd* as also importuning *you* for — and sent to the places & in the way I, from the start, suggested, Great God, what things might I not have done towards enlightening & civilizing the Nation, and towards rejoicing & enriching M. Carey & myself. Yes, this business of receiv'g 300 Doll^s a week which I have done, for 10 weeks past, might, with infinite ease have been made 500 Doll^s a week, & in place of 10 weeks, might have been continued for Life, yes all the days of my Life & Yours too —

Well I hope your eyes are open now to the fatal effects of your tram-melling & embarrassing measures with me. What could even Washington & Bonaparte have done had Congress & the Directory have [*sic*] continued to straiten & confound their plans? Well, if left to myself, I cou'd perhaps do as much with Books as they did with men. I only wanted the proper books & places, with the proper Subscription papers & Catalogues to make an immensity of Wealth for you in 10 years. But the thing is all over now. "*Othello's occupation's gone.*" I wait now but

to wind up a small affair, at an inferior court next week & then hurry back to town to pack & reship all your books except a few in Milledgville & Powelton. The 1st with Mr Devereux Post Master, & the 2^d with Mr. Dugger¹ Post Master also. In good stations both, & both the *best* & [*as*] able men as any in Georgia; from whom, were I to die, you w^d get your money as certainly as you could wish. I have recd your *long, long* letter of Apr. 4. But ten thousand letters could make no prosylite of me to your way of thinking. I have done away all your Objections, over & over again by plain simple statements made as *transcripts* from a heart on which they were so impress^d that nothing can ever wipe them away. Long have I seen the way to *Great GREAT Usefulness & Wealth* as plainly, (as I have often told you) as from your door to the Market house; and one or two essays have, *in promise*, been made. But they have, both times, prov^d abortive because they have, both times, been made in ways that I utterly condemn^d & foresaw w^d fail. . . . Hobby, I fear, will give trouble. But he is safe *at last*.

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AUGUSTA. July 6th 1811

SIR, . . . [*A list of amounts follows.*] Of this I pray you INSTANTLY to desire Mr Brundige to pay M^{rs} Weems 500 Dollars. All my life long I have been labouring hard, and with very little interruption from sickness or Vice thank God, and yet scarcely have done more for my family than to subsist them from hand to mouth. M^{rs} W. thinks that if she had a few hundred dollars to send by her brother, who is a skilful Merch^t, to Baltimore for some little articles of Merchandize, she cou'd give me a little aid in the pleasant work of maintaining & educating our Children. I pray you therefore *instantly* to desire Mr B to give her 500 Dollars. don't send it by mail, for fear of accident. My business in this country is at last finish^d, & after an absence of 21 months from one of the most affectionate families on earth I am this day to set off for home. I cannot but deplore the very different situation in which things now are from what they wou'd have been cou'd my Advice to you but have prevail^d.

¹ Sampson Dugger, postmaster, Powelton, See *P.O.Rec.Bk. No. 1*, pp. 482-483, P.O. Bldg., Ga., July 1, 1806 (first return) — 1820 + . . . Washington, D.C.

Here you see, with your own eyes you see in the state of my remittances that your interests were going on, rapidly progressing in the way I *always* told you they w^d do. Give me, I said and I said it a thousand times, give me 250 to 300 little stores of best school & ad Captandum books, and plenty of *seed time*, plenty of *seed time*, & you will assuredly prevail. You will be a Benefactor to Myriads of our Young Countrymen & you will make an immense fortune for your Children in the course of *ten years*. Now you see what good ground I had to build such calculations on. For many months I have been sending you at the rate of one thousand dollars a month & almost altogether by my *own exertions*, by *my own sales*, and from a very *imperfect Assortment*, (for tho' the Assortment was *large* it was not of the books that I was *ask^d for*,) Well, if under such embarrass^d & very limited circumstances I have been enabled to sell, & to send you 1000 Doll^s a month what might I not have done for you had I but had, together with *my own* the exertions of 250 public-spirited Characters in rich well chosen neighbourhoods. Why it stands to reason that my sales w^d have been *immense*. And not only *immense* but constantly growing *more & more so*. Whereas now, Alas! after just giving me, as it were, a doleful opportunity to demonstrate the practicability & certainty of my plan, the kindling flame is extinguished & total darkness & sterility are again roll^d over scenes which under judicious management might have been made bright & luxuriant as Paradise. Great God that a [*man?*] who was so early in the field of Controversy for the *Rights & Best Interests* of man, shou^d so soon suffer the fire, I may say the *Divine fire* to decay, & because he has got a handsome Estate (the very thing to *increase his usefulness*) now talks of settling down into the inertia of the Selfish Miser. You have paid me a great Compliment in confiding to me so large a part of your property. I thank God I am sensible of that Compliment and wish to do you all the good I can; Yes, tho' a great deal of that property confided to me was of the very *worst* sort, and which I had expressly inhibited, & which has cost me a world of useless labour & trouble, & expence both of time & money; and tho' you have by altering the original plan. (250 to 300 bookstores) exiled me near two years from my family; and tho' you have also for very trivial & very venal causes follow^d me with cruel persecutions & maledictions, yet all this has not

eras^d from my mind the wish that the latter part of our life might give you cause to say that it was well for you & y^r family that you ever form^d a connexion with me. Therefore if you have any spark left of true Self or Social Affection, if you still love the Human Family, your Country & yourself, and if you can devise anything better than the plan which I have everlastingly been intreating you to adopt, you may still command my most vigorous services. There is no great space now lying between me & the grave & there is no inch of it which I do not wish to cover over with the works of usefulness to the world while I stay in it. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 84.

AUGUSTA July 6 — 1811.

SIR — This will be presented by Mr. George Adams,¹ a respectable Inhabitant of this Town. Mr. Adams has lately purchas'd "*The Chronicle*" a Republican paper of more Celebrity & circulation than any in the State. He contemplates engaging in the book business, and from the fairness of his Character, the Popularity of his manners and exceeding commodiousness of his *stand*, there is abundant ground of belief that he will succeed to the full of his wishes.

Immediately after the fire I plac^d a *small parcel* of our books with him. His sales were flattering, and his punctuality highly honorable. Mr. Adams is willing to cooperate with you, and on reasonable terms. i.e. He will give us one half of all profits. Farewell. In 4 hours I leave town for Virginia. Your attentions to Mr. A. will oblige

M. L. WEEMS.

L. & F. Vol. 81.

AUGUSTA 1811. [*Received July 26*]

SIR — . . . In an arrangement propos'd by you some time ago, I was assign^d the Office of Capt^a. General of all the Bible Business south of Philad^a. If you be still so minded then dont let M^r. Geo Adams (to

¹ The *Augusta Chronicle* was published by Dec. 20, 1816. See *Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690-1820*, Clarence S. Brigham, after Mar. 10, 1811, and by George Adams *ProcAAS*, New Series, Vol. XXIII, 1913, pp. alone from Dec. 24, 1813, to the issue before 370-371.

whom I have given a letter of introduction to you) have any Bibles. I am at this moment printing a subscription paper for a Bible at 6.00. This I do because there are no subscription papers for bibles, & because in my travels home I shall pass over a great deal of Country and consequently have many opportunities of putting papers into good hands. I contemplate a noble addition to the Bible. Kingly Governments you know are the curse of the Human Race. The Bible, you also know, is point blank against Kingly governments. The People of America enjoy a REPUBLIC, which, next to a Theocracy, must be the most perfect form that can be. But they don't know its value. And therefore like Esau they may sell it for a song. To set their own form of Government before them in all its Amplitude & brightness of Blessings must in my opinion at least be one of the most patriotic services that any man can do to this Country.¹ Now what book so proper as a vehicle (to *print it in*) as the book which in consequence of the universal veneration attach^d to it, finds a ready admission into every house? And what book so proper to accompany it as that which in every Chapter, in every verse, and indeed in its *whole Spirit* condemns the aggarandishments, of Aristocrats; & enjoins that fervent Charity which w^d, if common, make one Commonwealth of the whole world? I have got a synopsis, for the tract must be in that way only, nearly ready for the purpose. I am just going to strike off, also, Davies' Sermons,² I mean *Proposals for*. This is a book of great demand in all these S[outhern]. States. My heart is much set upon "*Hunter's* SACRED BIOGRAPHY" but more of that at another time. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 82.

Aug. 30. 1811.

RED HOUSE CASWELL COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA.

SIR — . . . You may do Mr. Langley a great favor. He is honor'd by all as a very *honest man*, but he is poor & somewhat in debt as *most People* are. Now if you w^d write to him signifying your wish to assist

¹ I have never discovered that this project came to fruition. Weems had written 'And, God knows, a good government can hardly ever be half anxious enough to give its citizens a thorough knowledge of its own excellencies.' *Life of Marion*, p. 246.

² Not printed for Weems until 1816. See letter of Apr. 14, 1815.

him or befriend him — and that if he will give you a *security* such as Mr Duncan M^eRae or Mr. John ¹ or James Chestnut,² you will send him a good Assortment you may be a good friend to him & little children & he may considerably serve you, for many books may be sold in Camden. I really w^d advise you to do as I say, 1 order back the books now there or such at least as he thinks quite *unsaleable*. 2^d. get him to give security — & then 3^d send him a *good Assortment* such as School books, Family Bibles, Josephus, Religious books &c &c, and such *other books* as he himself can direct you — He is *Postmaster* & therefore no cost to confer with him, & you will be helping a *poor honest* man & his wife & children &, in the way I direct without *risk* & a *certain gain*.

This day I call^d on Mr. Tho^s Jeffreys³ of this place with whom, on my way to the South, I left a little cargo of books. He has sold 160 or 70 Dollars & this moment paid me, deducting his 15 pr. Cent. He is a rich man, & as honest as any man on earth — Rather than send the books back to you I have thought it adviseable to remove them to Person Court house 15 miles, & deposit them with his brother at that place. Mr. Jeffreys, I mean Mr. Tho^s. Jeffreys who has just paid me for 170 Doll^s books sold, is as I said one of the worthiest men living and *Independent*, wealthy already & daily becoming more so, dwells in an elegant house near a large tavern which *he lets out*, a store, a distillery & one or two profitable mills & plantations, so that he is infinitely safe. The

¹ John Chesnut, 1743-1818; born on the Shenandoah River, Va., moved with his family to North Carolina and later to South Carolina; was apprenticed to Joseph Kershaw in his store, Pine Tree Hill; rose rapidly to be an independent merchant and landholder; was a staunch Whig in the Revolution; had much land around Camden, S. C. . . . elected to the State Senate, 1793 and 1796. See *Historic Camden*, Thomas J. Kirkland and Robert M. Kennedy, Camden, S. C., 1905, Part One, Colonial and Revolutionary, pp. 366-371, LC. Capt. John Chesnut was put in irons in Camden, S. C., by Lord Rawdon during the Revolution for refusing to fight against the Americans. See *Statistics of South Carolina*, Robert Mills, Charleston, 1826, p. 254, LC.

² James Chesnut, John's son, 1773-1866. Owned a great deal of property and a large number of slaves; had vast interests; was very active in public matters; 1802, 1804, and 1808 elected to the Legislature; 1806-1807 Intendant of Camden; 1832 elected to State Senate; died at the age of 93. See *Historic Camden* (note 1).

³ I have found only one reference to this name, which may possibly apply. *Ad.* 'I wish to employ immediately, Two or Three Young Men, who are well acquainted with the House Joiner's Business, to whom liberal wages will be given. Thomas Jefferies. Culpeper Court-House, Sept. 12, 1796.' *Virginia Herald & Fredericksburg Advertiser*, Sept. 16, 1796,

AAS.

neighbours are just finishing an Academy which will open on New Years day. The books on the following pages are for the Academy & neighbourhood. Mark them all $6\frac{1}{4}$ cents above the Philad^a. price and address the box to Tho^s Jeffreys Esq^r. Red house care of Walker & Atkinson Petersburg. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 82.

LOUISBURG. Sep. 4. 1811

SIR — . . . When I was at Columbia, S.C. last session of the Legislature, I was much importun'd for the following books. . . . 6 Salma Gundi¹— 6 Yankee in London,² and some of the *latest & best* treatises on the military Art. And some of the newest & most popular political pamphlets, & some droll, dashing pieces in the way of Biography, pictures of living manners, Wit, humour, Racing Calendars. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 82.

WARRENTON. Sep. 24. 1811

SIR. I am just return^d from Newburn &c &c. whither I went on Mr. Wayne's business, which, as you well know, I was bound to wind up. 3 weeks more & I shall enter on the cordon of your book stores establish^d 2 years ago. God, I pray him give me good speed. I send you 300 Doll^s. I entreat you desire Mr. Brundige instantly to pay M^{rs}. Weems 50. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 82.

DUMFRIES. Octob. 19. 1811

SIR. . . . You will please be told that I have not yet call^d at the *line of Stores*. Absent 23 months from a most excellent Family, ragged & nearly naked I hasten'd strait home just to see my Wife & Children for 5 days only. My clothes linnens &c. are in the hands of the Taylor & semstress & on the 3^d day I start again to collect. God Almighty give me good success! I pray so because I have not that certainty which

¹ *Salmagundi*; . . . New-York: . . . 1807.

[Washington Irving & J. K. Paulding.]

D. Longworth, Publisher, 1c. — *Ad.* 'Books,

Just received and for sale by S. Pleasants.

Salmagundi.' *Virginia Argus* (Richmond),

Sept. 26, 1811, AAS.

² Presumably an earlier edition of *The Yankee in London*; . . . Philadelphia: . . . John Carson . . . 1826, 1c.

I shou'd have enjoy'd cou'd I but have been suffer'd to follow the counsels of my own Mind. Great God that the path so safe & strait to Usefulness & Wealth, as I see it, shou'd never be permitted unto me to tread. But that a fatal precipitence on the one hand & a fruitless attempt to sell unsaleable books, on the other, shou'd eternally bring such grief & ruin upon us both, but chiefly on *me*, who have not wealth to abide such experiments. I say *once more*, that cou'd I but have been allow'd to go on by myself *actively & judiciously* distributing subscription papers for a Family Bible & 2 or 3 *other Popular and Productive* publications, & at the *same* time selecting proper Persons & Places for small collections of Ad captandum books, I cou'd in 10 years (*Deo adjuvante*) clear for you an estate of 30 to 40.000 Dollars, and all by my *sole solitary self*. But hurried & crowded as I have been, unfortunate selections of *persons* cou'd not possibly have been avoided. . . .

Mr. Wayne wrote me a good while ago a request that I w^d let him know what he sh^d do with my *poor* little *cargo* of *books* in his hands. I wrote to you begging you w^d take care of them for me. I hope you have taken good care of them. If you cou'd be so exceedingly good as to have 100 Copies of my old Blair bound & sent to me with the books to Edenton you w^d infinitely oblige

Y^{rs}.

L. & F. Vol. 82.

DUMFRIES. Octob. 21 — [18]11.

SIR. . . . My situation is unpleasant; “no *man can serve 2 masters*.” Shoud have started about this hour but the Rain forbids. Hope to start for Charlotte’sville, Lynchburg, &c &c on the *grand cordon tomorrow*.

On casting up accounts, I find that what with the monies paid for you, the monies disburs^d by me in Georgia, & the monies due to me there on *good* notes, I find I say an amount of at least 17,000 Dollars.

Now when you shall have recollected that this was the fruit chiefly of my own exertions I mean my own *sales*, in 16 months and of books too by no means, so Help me God, of my own choosing, I trust you will stand awfully affected with a sense of what I might, with Heavens blessing, achieve if left to *myself*. But tho’ as the great Franklin says, I see the way to wealth as plainly before me as the way to market yet I also see that it is never to be trodden . . .

*L. & F. Vol. 82.**RICHMOND [received Nov. 21, 1811.]*

SIR — After some delays occasion^d by bad weather, & Mr. Wayne's business, I am arriv^d at this place from a tour thro' a section of my Cordon.

At Culpepper — I collected	200
At Stephensburg	100
At Madison Court house	300
At Stanardsville	50
At Charlottesville	70
At New Glasgow	200
At Lynchburg	246
At New Canton	120
At Cartersville	120
	\$1406

If the hair should lift your hat with horror to see only 70 Dolls got from Charlottesville, blame not me. One of the *very Best, & Safest* of all my agents was Col^o. Nimrod Bramham,¹ a Regimental Col^o. & wealthy by his own Virtues, and who declares that he should have sold at least *1500 Dolls* of the books as pr invoice consign^d by *me* to his agency. But he says the moment he got that *very uncivil* letter from you he determin^d not to *touch* the business. Thus you see what we have both *lost!!!* Of one little box, he sold about 84 doll^s, out of which he took his commission & paid me the ballance \$70. I had given him an order for boxes No. 8 & 16, with Mr. Pleasants, but he w^d not send for them. Nor w^d Gen^l. Steele of Salisbury have anything farther to do with *three* boxes sent to Petersburg for him, on getting your uncivil letters to him!! Wou'd God you cou'd be persuaded to let me attend to *my* part, & you attend to *yours*. . . .

*L. & F. Vol. 82.**DUMFRIES Nov. 23, 1811.**Saturd. morn.*

SIR—On getting home a few hours ago, I was presented with 3 letters from you, of the 4th. 5th. & 8. Not dream^g. of a letter at Fredericksburg

¹ Nimrod Bramham, Colonel of the Eighty-eighth Regiment, Albemarle Co., Va., 1806. See *Albemarle County in Virginia*, Rev. Edgar Woods, Charlottesville, 1901, p. 375, 1c.

I did not call at the post office. You ask me to fix a place of meeting. Where can you come so welcomely or so properly as to *Dumfries* I have a neat little room with a good bed where you and M^{rs} Carey might & shall pass your time (the longer the better) as agreeably as you have done for many years. Let Christmass day be the word. Dine with me on that day. So that's fix^d. *All the Book Store business shall by that day be finish^d*. for tho' I got home but last night, I am preparing to start again in 3 HOURS! and only t'other day from a 23 months absence from my very happy family!!! M^{rs}. Weems & my *Daughters beg that you w^d* bring M^{rs} & Miss Carey with you. It will be of great service to the health of you all after so much confinement in Philad^a. . . .

I cou'd tell you a great deal about "the way to Wealth" in this Book business, but as you [*are*] so soon to be here, I drop it. Many have been the years of my hard labourings & starvings in this world, but now I look back with pleasure upon them all, since I find, that, notwithstanding all the disheartening circumstances *by fire* in Georgia, by Mr. Cookes Madness, by Gen^l Steeles & Col^o Bramham's irritability, & the drawbacks occasion^d by your own improper movements in this affair, you are still willing as you say, "to cooperate with me to the whole extent of your fortune." God knows that my zeal is equal to that of any Adventurer in this Great Work of circulating good books & useful knowledge, but *my plans have never* yet had a fair trial. And there is another thing that lies heavy on my mind. "No Man can serve two Masters." Wayne has been a noble fellow in his behaviour to me, not in any *great* allowance that he ever gave me of his Book, for it was not in his power, but he has at any rate, been exceedingly gentle & generous in his requisitions. Now the truth is I must quit, in great measure at least, One of you. I cannot be distracted by fruitless efforts to serve & please you both. Cou'd you make an arrangement with M^r. Wayne for the Life of Washington now on hand & thus get me completely exonerated from him, you might then recommence with me in the spring on this new plan. You may exchange all the Life of Washington at 25 Doll^s. As a *book of exchange* there is not one in America that w^d do so well. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 82.

DUMFRIES. Dec. 18. 1811

SIR — This moment return^d — your 4 letters are before me. As to the success of the *Subscription business* (on which you are pleased to ask my opinion) there can be no doubt. Let the Books but be *ad gustum*, *ad captandum*, and let the Papers be in the Agency of one *completely devoted* to the business, skill^d in the characters that will heartily cooperate, and also *well mounted*, and it wou^d not be an easy thing to compute the amount of Sales. The *venduing* idea too is a good one, and if conducted by a person who knew how to touch off handsomely the Dulce & the Utile of the book under his hammer, it w^d no doubt shew a Midas like virtue at the Grand transformation, especially if, (which w^d be a noble Auxilliary) all the lots above such a price were to go, on 6, 9, or 12 months credit with *bond*, & *approv^d* security. I feel as certain, as I can of my own existence, that I cou^d annually in this way alone, (if well supported) dispose of many more thousands of books than *you* have any idea of. And if, in addition to all this, I cou^d be permitted to manage the STORE BUSINESS as it *ought to be*, O what might not be the results both in Good to the Country, & in Gold & Glory to Ourselves.

The store business, I well know, is a matter of loathing to you, and no wonder, for it has proved very injurious to you & to me too. But I am bold to say that the fault is not in the thing itself, but in the mismanagement of it which to your blame & to my grief, has indeed *been extreme*. This *haphazard* way of sweeping books from the shelves and tumbling them into boxes as if *Fire! Fire! Fire!* was thundering in our ears, ought never to be consider^d as a fair trial of the Store plan. No, Sir, let me while passing (on the other & *Higher objects*) thro' the most populous & wealthy neighbourhoods, (of which you know I can easily enough find as many at least as your Capital can cover) let me I say in passing thro' such neighbourhoods, make such acquaintance with the Political, Religious, Military & Agricultural character of the Inhabitants as w^d unerringly [*lead?*] to a choice of the proper books, & then let these with a small assortment of School books be sent, and I w^d risk my Salvation that not a tythe of these w^d survive the Sales of the year. Now suppose that a small box, say 150 Doll^s only, thus judiciously assorted were sent to each neighbourhood, & 200 neighbourhoods were

selected — an immensely easy thing in my immense peregrinations — what a Royal revenue w^d this alone amount to?? 30,000 Dollars annually!! I know you are ready to call this a mere airy fabric, great on paper, but little in practice; and for proof, will quote to me the mal-success of our late experiments. But I tell you again this is not Truth nor true Self Love; but a most criminal collusion with prejudice & Error to our exceeding hurt. You are pleas^d to think highly of my talent at book vending at Court-houses; and indeed I am willing to believe that, *give us the same stock*, I could sell as many books in the year as w^d 20 or 30 of our ordinary Store Keepers. But still how exceedingly desirable must it be to a Gentleman who wishes to be eminently useful to his Country & Family to have, (together with this *one Agent* equal, say, to 20) 150 or 200 others of the *safe & active sort*, all daily handing out useful knowledge to the People, and daily taking in the means of Independence & Comfort to your advancing years & growing Family. And as to that dreadful picture you give of your books “*perishing with dirt, & filth, & worms — and forc^d upon every person, willing or unwilling*”] &c. &c. &c. all this, you well know, is mere declamation. For these evils do not, *one of them*, belong to the plan if fed by the wholesome nutriment of Prudence; but are the vile excrescencies [*sic*] and Cancers of Folly & Mismanagement. When 20 or 30 large boxes are sent to such a poor, *out-o-the-way*, *Deserted* village as *Dumfries*, and you importunate for money, what in the name of God is to be expected but the usual curses of disorder & haste. And when one half of the contents of those boxes are what you justly call “Dead stock,” what is to be look^d for better than dead sales. But, because the Thorns never yet produc^d *good fruit* shall we discourage the labours of the Figtree? Had I *my way* every book sent shou^d sell, & every Agent shou^d pay: and chosen at full leisure they shou^d all be of the Legion of Honor. Men of the first rate Property & Probity, and their Connexion with you so fully understood that in event of my death, they might all be visited by your son & everything settled without the loss of a Cent. In short, the Store plan, I am certain, if well managed w^d furnish a *noble harvest* every year. But neither this nor any other plan, tho’ God himself were the Author & Heaven the End, w^d ever succeed unless the Seed were sown in Wisdom & Time given for the increase. And this made me always cry out

to you, "Seedtime! a good Seedtime! Oh, for a good Seedtime!" But neither your own sense, so admirable in other things, nor all my importunities cou'd ever yet prevail against that cruel destiny which like a blast from hell has met me full in the teeth on every tack and at last has driven me ashore in spite of every effort. And now see what you & I have gain^d by it. I began my sales in Georgia about the 1st of February & ended them about the first of June the next year, making 16 months. And in monies paid for you, sent *to you*, & some in good notes, the amount is about 16,000 Dollars. 1000 Dol. a month. And cou'd I but have had the Books I wanted, & which I had promis^d to Judges, Lawyers, Physicians, Soldiers &c. &c. &c. I shou'd with equal ease, have sent you 1500 Doll^s pr month. And this Elegant Revenue might, all this past fall & all this winter, have been going on. But behold, just as the ship having clear^d the narrows had caught the gale and was beginning to spring forward on her golden voyage, *hard a lee* is the word and now here we are with flapping sails falling astern upon the rocks of ruin as hard as we can drift — I mean, as to *myself*. For to *you* tis nothing. Moor^d as you are like a tall 3 decker, with a Family Bible ahead & a School ditto & Testament on each quarter you can laugh at the darkening storm & defy all its rage. But a poor crazy Tender as I am, a ragged Mother Careys Chicken like me has everything to dread from it. But to quit these Dreary scenes into which my fancy has so spontaneously wander^d because of their correspondence with the colouring of my fate, and to come to the 4 points of Business before us, 1st. The Subscription — 2^d the Venduing — 3^d the Store plan — & 4th. Court house Sales, let me give you my idea of their Relative worth, I mean if wisely plann'd & vigorously acted on.

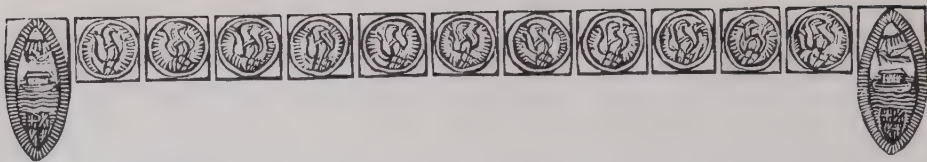
1. The Store plan, at least.....	15,000 per annum
2. The Auction plan —.....	10,000
3. The Subscription plan —.....	15,000
4. My Court house Sales	} 20,000
some part, on 6, 9, & 12 months	
credits, with bond & security	
	60,000

To make up for deficiencies in any of the above items I cou'd suggest one or two other Expedients which I tried with success in Georgia. But more of that hereafter, I mean when I see you which will be in 14 days (God willing) as I shall set out next week. The 500 Dollars which I sent you by Mr. Brundige, was, all of it, money rec'd for Mr. W[ayne?]'s Books. Besides that I have now 500 Doll^s more from the same source — and 1250 from our books. All this is, in truth, mine but I have no objection to let you have some which I can either send on, if you choose, or bring it with me. I set out next week.

L. & F. Vol. 82.

DUMFRIES, Dec. 30. 1811

SIR. Here I am just from Maryl^d. whither I went on a *Peace Making* crusade to my two brothers, & whence after a loss of 10 precious days, & the untimely death of a noble horse that cost me 160 Doll^s I am just return^d — In the morning I shall give Mr. Brundige 500 Doll^s, with a request to send on *instantly* to you. In a very few days I shall set out to see you — I shall bring with me the invoices of the boxes from Augusta.



And the war was preceded,¹ according to the practice of civilized nations, by the most solemn protestations that each party was sincerely desirous of peace. — EDWARD GIBBON.

L. & F. Vol. 84.

[Philadelphia? n.d. first letter bound with 1812.]

DEAR SIR, This tho' short will suffice to assure that with all your Zeal, possible or imaginable, you cannot be half so zealous that I shou'd go as I am that I sh^d be gone. I have some frowns here, nothing but smiles at home. Besides, *here*, I am all on the losing — there, all on the gaining hand. I want a good box¹ — I want to finish our arrangements — I want to [*do?*] several things which you cannot think of, but which are all important to a Man who is making his arrangements as tho' he were never more to see Philad^a. Therefore, let the few, the very few hours, that we are to spend together in this vestibule of the Grand Coelum Coelorum be spent in quiet.

Yours, toujours,
Con Amore,

L. & F. Vol. 84.

[Philadelphia? n.d. bound with 1812.]

D^r SIR, On this — a portion of the paper you gave me yesterday — I now scribble the few following lines as immaculate as its own snow white face.

There is something which whispers me, that if YOU & I could but at last get in motion and in the *right* way, we shoud do much good for our generation and make large monies for our Children. But this can never be done unless you extend towards me your *wonted generosity* and JUSTICE.

As God is my Eternal Judge I clubb'd fortunes with you 4 years ago, with a view to the *public* Service and private gains deriveable from 200 to 250 small ad captadum bookstores — Again, 4 *months* ago I

¹ From 1809 on Carey had boxes from the Prison Factory. See *Addenda*.

clubb^d with you a second time on the same views, which were as the first, committed to writing. For lack of house room, leisure, Physical force & other means, you have resolved to abandon, or at least to suspend the operation of this a main part of the plan. I counted on at least, 1,000\$ pr. an. from 200 book stores judiciously established & well supplied. To a man of my large family living in a town [*and*] not a soul on earth to do anything for them but myself, this is a most disheartening drawback.

I ask but the following allowances 1, one dollar p^r diem — which for myself, my little son, & two horses & a 4 wheel^d carriage will be but 1/8, and indeed on some days, but 1/4 of what I must spend. 2. 25 pr Cent commission on all books of your own printing or exchange, that I can sell. On books sent to Agents, you see clearly enough, that I did not care what you gave me; as Agents may be *slow to pay* and sometimes insolvent. But books carried about and sold by *myself*, being on different terms ought to be differently rewarded. *Often*, where only 2 or 3 books are bought, Churls *will beat down the price!!!* 3. No Responsibility for losses, whether by fire, water, theft &c. I pray you to understand me. You, for example, for I am to stand in your stead — you take 1000 Dolls worth of books into your waggon. In a crowded piazza, or court house yard, selling something every minute you *cannot possibly* keep notes of your sales. How then are you to do? Why, you keep a *daily account of your expences*, you enter *all the sums sent to M^{rs}. Carey* — and you find, at the end, say, of 50 days that your books are all sold off. Well, now, let me see how far everything tallies.

	\$
1. My expences, 2 doll ^s pr day suppose, 50 days	100
July 1 ^t . Cash to M ^{rs} . Carey	200
— 20. Cash to M ^{rs} . C	200
Sep. 1 d ^o — d ^o — d ^o	400
Sep. 10 d ^o — d ^o — d ^o	70
	970

Here is a deficit of 30. This you take for granted to have been created by the discounts made to those who purchased parcels. Now as such purchases will not be numerous, I can very easily, with the help of my son especially, make minutes of such — and shall willingly admit all such draw backs to be at my loss, but no other. . . .

4. School bibles, testaments, Primers & Spelling books, being often sold by the dozen, to be put lower than retail prices.

5. The accomplishment of your promise made me to send to me, from other Gentlemen, such books as I am ask^d for or know I can sell, that you may not have.

6. To send the books to me in trunks or *boxes* of any form that I may order as best for my purposes.

7. To keep me well supplied with Family Bibles — especially the cheap N^o 38¹ with 2 plates only, also school books & Books of Science.

8. To supply me with any quantities of Washington.

9. To print & send me (at my own risk & cost) my own little works — and at your cost & risk, your own more ponderous works, so promptly and punctually as never to cause me to complain — because of the loss of time & time's worth to my suffering family — nor to necessitate me ever to come back to Philadelphia again to wind up business, especially at such Monstrum, Horrendum, Damnum pacis & pecunicæ as I have experimented for this, near, 12 month past.

I conclude with what I said, that “If we cou’d but at *last get in motion*, in the *right way*, and *never interrupted* — God of Heaven, what might not be done!! But rather than, Madman like, play “the Dwarf co-belligerating with the Giant.” to my sure crushing & destruction, I w^d gladly act the Tarapin, buy a few Bibles & books of you — and creep along in a safe shell.

Yours, with superlative & unending friendship

Will call this afternoon — Friday — forenoon.

L. & F. Vol. 84.

MOORES TAVERN Feb. 13, 1812.

After a day of hard running on my patience sufficient to bankrupt 40 Jobs, here I am in a small room, half smother^d with smoke, and but about 14 miles from Philad^a!!!. May no Mass ever be sung for the Souls

¹ S. Pleasants advertised a long list of following: ‘Carey’s Bible \$38 — With Apocrypha, lettered 4 25.’
Carey’s Bibles in the *Virginia Argus* (Richmond), Jan. 13, 1812 [AAS.], among which is the

rest of him, that *Suleratise-me Rerum* who can sell a horse without telling his faults. Such jumping & kicking, such straddling the traces, falling on the pole, lying down and rolling in the dust I never beheld before today, as in the execrable horse which you bought for me from that Frankfort acquaintance of ours. And behold when the cause of all his abominable capers came to be found out, what shou'd it be but the rubbing of the britchband against his tail!! Simple as such a provocation may appear to a creature endued with reason, yet to my poor horse who possess^d no faculty of that sort, it seem^d so serious an Offence that I am verily persuaded I shou'd have had to turn back had it not been discover^d & removed.

But my troubles on the road are succeeded by others in my lodgings. Soon as I got to my tavern I order^d a fire & candles, & went to inspecting my papers, and behold to my utter consternation I find that I have but 25 of y^r Washingtons.¹ Such are the consequences of doing things in a hurry. But, thank God, the evil in this case, can easily be remedied. You can instantly send me on 100 by the stage; or, as you have deluged all this Country thro' which I am going, perhaps 50 will be enough — let them be well *paper^d* & twin^d & the Driver persuaded to take them in the boot. A thought has often occur^d to me which you will approve; suppose after the first Chap. of the "*God's Revenge against Gambling*," which ends with the bloody fate of the Queen of France, you were to give a few good *verses*, shewing that no *Rank* nor *Power* can save from condign punishment those who abuse these advantages to the ruin of others, Doct^r Watts in his *psalms* has some fine lines. Your children (sans compliment) if put on the track w^d soon find them. I need not tell *you* the good effect of such caping [*sic*] to such a chapter. Also at the close of the book — & particularly if 1/2 a page be wanting, it will do admirably to wind up with some awefully painted verses. In the cheap repository (complete sett)² & in other places you will find

¹ By such allusions Weems meant his own work, which he had sold to Carey in 1809.

² Moral and religious tracts by Hannah More and her friends originally printed by S. Hazard of Bath, England, in 1795–1796. The l.c. has an 1800 B. & J. Johnson edition, the copy being from the library of Mr. George Brinley.

'A complete set of the cheap repository tracts is very rare.' Brinley catalogue.—'Hannah More['] . . . forty tracts comprising "The Cheap Repository" . . . were for many years a staple article in Sunday school libraries, and even now, although pushed to the rear, they are discoverable in some such collections of

good matter; or make some. Don't forget Judge Rush's review¹ — If the Rev^d M^r Holcombe — Doct^r Rogers,² Abercrombie³ &c &c, were to be paid the compliment of reading &c. &c. it might have a good effect.

[FROM CAREY]

L. & F.

Feb. 21 [1812].

MRS. FANNY WEEMS,

M^r. Weems started homeward yesterday week & I presume will have arrived as soon as this reaches you, or shortly afterwards. I have taken the liberty to make some small presents to your amiable daughter as a mark of my regard for her father who will convey them to her.

[TO WEEMS]

April 29, 1812.

The affair of which I spoke to you, hangs as yet in futuro — & however strong the probability of its taking place, it w^d. be to the very last degree improper to drop the slightest hint respecting it till its denouement. I therefore again enjoin you on [*sic*] a more than common degree of circumspection on the subject.

L. & F. Vol. 84.

MILFORD, May 4, 1812.

DEAR SIR. . . . We are both likely to live many of our best years yet. Independence will be as Dear & Delightful 10 years hence as now. We have both been hard Labourers & Fellow sufferers for a long time, Twere most desirable to wind up *victoriously* at the last. I wish you to think of these things. I also pray you to do me the following great services —

books.' — 'Miss More had started the stream of goody-goody books. . . .' *Forgotten Books of the American Nursery*, Rosalie V. Halsey, pp. 132, 188, LC.

¹ A commendation by Jacob Rush, brother of Benjamin, the famous Philadelphia physician was printed in the second edition, 1812, of *God's Revenge against Gambling*.

² Letter of commendation of *Carey's Family Bible* signed by 'Wm. Rogers, D.D. of the Baptist church Professor of English and Belles

Lettres in the University of Pennsylvania.' *Intelligencer & Weekly Advertiser* (Lancaster, Pa.), Apr. 19, 1803 *et seq.*, PSrL.

³ 'Senior assistant minister of Christ Church, St. Peter's and St. James', Philadelphia.' *Philadelphia Directory*, 1823, LC. Was connected with the Philadelphia Academy, whence he rendered reports on Carey's son Henry in 1802, 'Conduct No. 1'. *Mathew Carey Account Books*, Vol. 16:6003, 6004, AAS.

1st. send to M^{rs} Cochran,¹ the letter *post paid*, which accompanies this.
 2^d. procure me a good frontispiece for my pamphlet, against Drunkenness, One of the *funny sort* will be best perhaps. If your designer cou'd consult Hogarth, or go to M^{rs}. Cochran's & read some of the Blackguard sins recorded in this pamphlet, his imagination might fall into the right track. I assure you my prospects for this year are squally, and unless I can make something by other People's Gambling & drink, I shall be strongly tempted myself. But I still hope that all things will be ordered for great good to us both & to our families. Wishing you to look beyond the storm to the Halcyon days before us, I remain,

Dr. Sir, yours,

M. L. WEEMS.

L. & F. Vol. 84.

MILLSBOROUGH, May 8, 1812.

Dr SIR.

"The blest to day are as truly so
 As who were blest a thousand years ago."

So let us rejoice that since Happiness is a thing that is to last for ever, (for *life*) we have now a chance to manufacture it of the *right quality* and not of that loose spongy texture which it is wont to possess when trundl^d upon us by our wealthy Relatives, dying.

But we have begun but badly this Spring. 5 weeks ago, in Virg^a. I pray^d you for mercy's sake to send me the books to Lewistown. But behold, they were not sent, and here have I lost near a week waiting for them. Tis true rather than be idle altogether, I ran back to Dover to the Court, then sitting *there*, but I had almost as well been spending the time by some swamp side listening to the crocking [*sic*] of the Dutch nightingales, for in a whole day I sold very little more than 20\$. All, all things convince me that 300 small, very small ad captandum stores are our sheet anchor to ride out the coming storm. The Books are come. I am thus far on my way to Prince Anne, Snow Hill, &c. &c., thence back to Canbridge, thence to Philada. Some few I shall sell — many

¹ Robert Cochran had died shortly before, *ness*. See *Philadelphia Directory*, 1811 and and his widow, Ann, had taken over the busi- 1813.

more I shall settle in stores — all that I can do shall be done. In 8 days shall be in Canbridge.

I pray you to get me some good frontispiece for my little pamphlet on Drunkenness. You have pass^d your word to pay M^{rs} Cochran for me in 4 months. And I don't want you to advance *one cent* for me. If the pamphlet can not be finish^d by the time I get to Philad^a (say in 15 days and if not in that time when will it ever be finish^d?) I can dispose of them so as to keep you from any cost on my account. I know that such are the Resources of your mind that you can easily get a good frontispiece for it, some of the stories in it w^d furnish the Designs with matter. & you can have it engrav^d in 10 days as well as in 10 years. I say to you & to myself again.

“The blest to day are as truly so
As who were blest a 1000 years ago.”

. . . You began, a snow ball of the diameter of an acorn You have become a Pyramid. O remember, in 10 years you may become — WHAT? Why, a Mountain!

Your friend,

L. & F. Vol. 84.

[Lewistown?] May 8, 1812.

Dr. SIR. . . . For the War & rumour of war have produced the effect I fear^d. No money, no selling — I cou'd, with all my arguments, scarcely sell 20\$ at Dover during the long Court day. . . .

In 2 hours I set off for Cambridge &c. &c. Let us keep up good Spirits. Industrious honest men shall want “*no manner of thing that is good for them!*”

The times are squally, but He who keeps the watch is omnipotent, omniscient & omnibenevolent, So Nil Desperandum.

I pray^d you to get your *Designer* to give me a nice frontispiece for my Drunken pamphlet. I know you will not forget me, for indeed I am doing pretty nearly as well as I can for you. How happy I shou'd be if the thing cou'd be engrav^d & finish'd for me against I come up which will be by the 18. God bless you. Best wishes to the Family.

*L. & F. Vol. 84.**WILMINGTON, June 10, 1812.*

Dr. SIR. . . . For God's sake send at *once*. O think not of the *past*. It is not in that way that we are to avenge ourselves on Conrad, or to avoid his fate. God bless you.

[To JAMES MADISON]

*LC.**[N.d. received June 17th. 1812.]*

I send your Excellency this little Pamphlet¹ because of the very great pleasure it gives me to let you see that tho' I cannot fight the British into their better senses I am at least endeavoring to do something with those Deluded ones of our own People, the Gamblers.

I was talking with your Excellency last night on a subject which lies uncommonly near to my heart — i.e, to convince the Great Mass of our People how preeminently they are favord of Heaven.

"*My People are destroy^d for lack of knowledge,*" says God by the Prophet. And very sorry I am to tell your Excellency that this applies too truly to the Citizens of the U. States. Too many of them are ignorant, most lamentably ignorant of their Great National Mercies. I long above all things to give them the 8th. Chap. of I. Sam. with comments most faithfully stated by all the hosts of Kings from Nimrod to Napoleon. Surely if this could be done in a concise and popular manner, the People of this Heaven-founded Republic w^d rise up as one man from Dan to Beersheba and with Life & fortune support your Excellency & all future Presidents in your just measures to defend and immortalize a Government fraught with so many Blessings.

If your Excellency could at any time tell me of a book that w^d give me some lights on this Great Subject, or could engage some Gentleman of time & talents this way to assist me by sketching out a Skeleton at least for me, you w^d confer a singularly acceptable favor on very Honor^d & Dr Sir

yours, with utmost esteem & respect,

¹ Probably the 1812 edition of *God's Revenge against Gambling* (*Bibliography, title 189*).

[FROM CAREY]

L. & F.June 22 [1812.]

The declaration of war deranges all our plans. I must not send goods to N. or South Carolina or Georgia as no insurance can be made on them. It will therefore be requisite to confine supplies to such places as can be furnished via Baltimore and the Chesapeake Bay. To M^{rs}. Weems I presume this arrangement cannot fail to prove satisfactory. Let me hear from you without delay.

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 84.DUMFRIES, June 27, 1812.

DEAR SIR, Yours of the 22 I receiv^d not untill yesterday — I was out of the way — the fault at M^{rs}. Weem's door. Not advertis'd as *she ought to have been*, of the day I expected [to] return, she had gone to her Mothers. whither, instantly on my return, I follw^d her, to the double loss of not seeing your letter in time, as also to the great Affliction of not seeing my young friend Henry ¹ on his return from Fredericksbg — which, believe me, I very much regret, not only because of the pleasure lost on my part, but also of that which he has sustain'd, poor fellow, as I was very sensibly reminded of, just now when after a comfortable dinner and a cordial glass, leaning back on one chair & resting my feet on another, I sat and listen'd, oh Luxury Divine, to my sweet Daughter M^{rs}. Heath ² at the piano [*singing?*] thro Old Scotia's songs with that true — Highland rage which made me feel & fancy unutterable things. But to the point — for you told me, If I remember aright, that I must stick to the track like a blood hound. You say, then, that the War has play^d the D——l with us — and that you can't send any books to S. Carolina & Georgia. I pray you to attend to the following. . . .

V. Day after tomorrow I run up to Washington to see the great men there, meet me there with a letter stating your plans ad longum.

VI. Will it not be well, admirably well, to send me, SPEEDILY before the war begins, to Fredericksbg^s, Alexand^a, Richmond & Petersburg, about 6,000\$ worth chiefly of cheap Family Bibles, Washington, Webster's spell^s and a *few varieties* as I shall advise?

¹ Henry C. Carey, the capable son of Mathew Carey, and later his partner.

² Frances, Weems' eldest daughter (see *Appendix XVII*).

VII. Can't you instantly send me the ballance of the Drunkards Looking Glass to Alexandria? From the little experience that I have had, it will do well by & by when it comes to be polished.

Yours Aff.

L. & F. Vol. 84.

[N.d. after June 27, 1812.]

. . . Let me intreat you, my dear Sir, to throw no obstacle in the way of my proposition. For Heaven's sake consider how Important to command the most strenuous exertions of Hundreds Of Weighty Individuals. But how in the name of common Sense, can this be done without touching the spring that throws *All Free Agents* into action, I mean Interest. *One* for 2 & hardly anybody will stir. The bush has been so often beat' the Game is become scarce, so scarce that few can *hope* to get 12 sub^s. ergo the paper dies on their hands. But 1 for 6 and Hope revives and Efforts are made that terminate in a success, proportionate with the extent of our Stage, *Immense* — Say the word & this moment M^{rs}. C[ochran]. will dash off some subⁿ papers. She has already wetted down some of the paper which you sent to finish the pamphlet.¹ Why in God's name can't something be done & speedily? For I repeat my Declaration that these Delays are the curse of the life & Soul of

Yours,

M. L. W.

L. & F. Vol. 84.

DUMFRIES, July 12, 1812

D^r SIR. . . . Will it not be well for me instantly to commence auctions of y^r books at the various stations on the way to the South, and on the days immediately succeeding the Court days which we will suppose improved to the purpose of private Sale? NB On all expenses defray^d will it not be advisable to allow me a certain p^r Centage on all monies receiv^d. say, 15, 12½, 10 or even lower if you think proper &

¹ *The Drunkard's Looking-Glass* (see letter of May 4, 1812).

right — at any rate, let us avoid the difficulties & vexations of [*counting*] every little book that dies under the hammer.

I send you 49 Dolls which I collected for you last week in the City.

II. Will it not be adviseable in the *highest degree*, to get ready 500 copies Life of Washington for Petersburg? NB be getting them *ready*, but don't send till we digest the mode, i.e., whether they shou'd all be sent in one box, to care of Mr. Grammar — or in small boxes with about 9 Bibles n^o 38 and 12 to 20 Life of Washington in each box. I have plenty of subsⁿ papers for both of these books which I look upon to be by far the most saleable & quickly convertible into cash of any you possess. And as I go along I shall make it my business to Zig Zag thro the Country calling on all the most wealthy & influential to assist me in diffusing these as extensively as possible among all their acquaintances. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 86.

DUMFRIES. July 15. 1812.

SIR — Yours of the 9th is before me. I hasten to answer it. My plans are, generally, well laid but something commonly comes across to spoil them, now in order —

I — I came up to you in January with the determination, instantly, on winding up the Old affair, to dash to the N. Carolina Courts around Edenton whither you had sent a cargo of valuable books. My long detention in Philad^a ruined that scheme — Then

II — It was determin'^d that I shoud push to the different places of deposit in Virginia & sell and auctioneer all the Old Ballances. This, tho' it w^d have been attended, as I stated to you, with much loss, yet w^d have succeeded in the conversion of the old stock into cash. For this you were to have given me 25\$ pr week. But by the time I had gotten to Dumfries I was overtaken by a mandate to desist — and a discovery was made also that the waggon which I had purchas^d for the purpose was far too *heavy*. From the difficulty of replacing it by a purchase in this place, I advis^d a return to Philad^a for one, & during its construction to run down the Peninsula on the GRAND BUSINESS of fixing small stores of School & ad captand. books. I found 23. But these, on my return

I understood cou'd not be supplied. Thus, three times was I thwarted & undone.

III. That no obstacle on my part sh^d lie in the way of full success in your views & hopes, I offer^d on *your own terms* of *price & payment*, all the books which I had gotten in exchange for my Blair & Immortal Mentor. To this you objected. I mention this not to blame you, but to let you see that I did not wish to have anything to divert me from *your Business*.

4. When I found that the Grand Bookstore business was abandoned forever, I ask^d you to give me one dollar pr day, i, e, 365\$ pr. An. in place of 1500 to 2.000 which I had counted on from the 200 to 250 book-stores *always promis^d me*. To this also you objected.

5. And now, after all, you tell me I may *collect & sell* if I can — not such *necessary* School books, such *choice Novels*, such modern *Voyages, Travels &c. &c.* which even in War times the Multitude w^d run after, and give me something to support my family; but such *remnants* as have been 3 years offer^d for sale in Virgi^a & many of them twice 3 years in Philad^a. & on the sales of which I shou'd certainly starve.

6. I have mention^d these things to let you see that I have been much more sinn^d against than Sinning, and also that if there has been a good deal of trifling away time, it was very far from voluntary.

7. Considering that in 24 months I rais^d & sent you 24,000\$ without a single accident by draft or note except one little note of 200 cents, I deem it a very serious misfortune to both our families that we shou'd have lost so much time.

8. You want to know "*the Course I mean to steer.*" I always felt myself most sacredly bound to you in the affair of the maps and I have sent to M^cRae Fayette for a N. Carolina Almanac that I may ascertain when the Courts will commence at Currituck Edenton & where you have Books, in order to dash in at once with the sales of them, and with getting *subscriptions to the Maps*.¹ From Edenton & Halifax I intend to progress from Court to Court thro' the upper & healthy parts (during this sickly season) of N^o. Carolina, untill Octob. & then push to S. Carolina & Georgia to meet the Legislatures & go around with the Courts sell^g all I can & collect^g what remains of former debts.

¹ Probably the maps of John Melish.

9. As to the *cheap bibles*, I tell you *once for all*, a subscription paper shall *never* be put into the hands of a Gentleman who will detain y^r money *90 days after receipt of the books*. . . .

I am *morally certain*, that if the maps were all happily dispos^d of I cou'd make a good living by the Bible & Washington alone. I pray you give as good paper as you can afford for 450. leaving out the Apocrypha

Yours respectfully,

L. & F. Vol. 86.

DUMFRIES July 19. 1812

D^r SIR — From the uneasiness which the Maps give you I sincerely regret that you ever had anything to do with them, especially as I have just come to the fullest conviction that if I were clear of all other Books under Heaven and gave my whole undivided attention to the Bible I shou'd in 5 years make a fortune for us both. However it is the Glory of Man to combat & overcome Difficulties. The Maps are before us and we must do the best we can with them. During the present fai-neant state which the War paralysis seems to have brought even upon You, I set off this morning to 3 or 4 of the upper Counties with some of your Family Bibles & other books to raise you a little money. By the time I return which will be in a few days, I hope you will have made up your Ultimatum. For I shall be ready *immediately* to act in the Map business if you say the word.

I. The sales in this poor place are chiefly confin^d to school books, of which there have never been sent any worth speaking of. 24 Murrays Gram. *large & latest edition* — 12 Keys,¹ 12 Exercises — 12 Columbian Orators, 50 Websters Spelling books, with 12 Bibles N^o. 38 with 2 plates, and 6 Morse's Geog. abridged ought to be sent *immediately*; and the Drunkards looking Glass the whole that's left — direct to me to care of Captⁿ. W^m. McDonalSon Balt^o. to be sent to me at Dumfries. I pray you to send the above *immediately*. The sooner the better as the British are not yet on our coast and but little danger can

¹ *A Key to the Exercises Adapted to L. Murray's English Grammar. By the author of the Exercises, New York, 1803, AAS.*

attend the New Castle & Balt^o Inland Navigation. Is not the following worthy y^r. consideration

II. From the plundering disposition of the British, & their long war habits I suspect we shall not have Peace so soon as we cou'd wish. War then is to be counted on. In War, none but Books of *Necessity* can be expected to sell well, such as School Books & Family Bibles. Ought not these then to engage your chief attention. . . .

III. As to the Costly Bible you speak of, there can exist no doubt of the exceeding importance of such a bible. The Wealthy, who, thank God, are pretty numerous in our land, will never put up with a 5 or 6 Dollar bible. And counting to get but *one bible*, as one *Wife*, in their life time, they wish, as they say, to have *that one* of the best sort. This alone, to say nothing of the large monies that you may derive from a very heavy edition of such a bible, were a sufficient argument to engage you in the undertaking. The Rich man's Bible therefore is to be undertaken. But does it not require much judgment to fix the price. A 16\$ Bible will certainly afford me a better profit than a bible at an inferior price. But if 5,000 Sub^s. may be had for a 10\$ Bible, & only 1000 for a 16\$ Bible, I am certain I shall make several hundred pr Cent more by the *low pric^d* former than by the high-priced latter. Dobson, I remember, tried a 20\$ Bible, but fail^d entirely tho' Trade & Revenue were at that time at the highest. I fear that a 16\$ Bible will hardly succeed *now*, when everything seems to be at the lowest nadir of Discouragement. All this, you know, is but the language of Interrogation. It is yours to determine. But I hesitate not to say that for a Bible in red morocco with a large Map of the holy land & 12 Engravings in *superiour style* at 12\$, you w^d get twice the number that cou'd be had for one at 16\$ Doll^s. — or in *best Calf* with 20 plates.

At any rate I w^d not go above 12\$. For a bible, that w^d not frighten the People, I am sure I cou'd obtain an immense Subscription. Soon as this unfortunate Map Affair was finish^d, I wou'd dash thro' all the States with letters introductory & Commendatory *from* the Greatest & *to* the Greatest men of our Country — I w^d. thus in every section enlist the Coadjutancy of the most Influential Characters to a book whose popularity cou'd not fail to insure a prodigious patronage & whose high amount w^d yield a noble Revenue for *several years*. And if I cou'd but

have with me a few engravings of the finest *Designing & Execution* to flash in the eyes of the wealthy Farmers to quicken their Zeal & make them eloquent in the good Cause, I shou'd succeed, still more gloriously. As to the Atlass I will not deceive you. I will put the Subscrip papers into good hands, but never will I waste (as I *feel* it) my time on that or any other work (from which I am at present free) that is unconnected with Morals, Religion or Republican Politics. The *Bible*. The *Bible* is my object. And I feel the fullest confidence that from this single book well managed we might for years derive a noble revenue. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 86.

DUMFRIES, Aug. 8. 1812.

DEAR SIR — . . . I hate as I do the flames of Erebus to be ripping up the Hydras of old times & things, — But you will do me the Justice to say that I have a 1000 times *intreated* you as for Salvation to send the Invoices IN the boxes, and not, (*for God's sake*) not to send them about as you have too frequently done, to I do not know how many different Post offices all over the Country.

. . . I am tormented to death with that irresolution which runs thro' your letters. One letter, and you are all for the *Bible Subscriptioneeing*, rapidly, O most rapidly. And the next letter, the benefits of subscriptions, tho ultimately great, are all *too slow*. God is my Judge that nothing on earth w^d afford me more pleasure than to be made the Happy Instrument of rescuing you, as you say, from your present embarrassments. But this cannot be done so *completely & effectually* as I cou'd wish. I foresaw the Obstacle & told you of it, *time after time*, in Philad^a. I told you I had 1 or 2,000 Dolls worth of my own books which I earnestly intreated you to take at your own *price* & times & manner of payment. But you *wou'd* not, & I suppose *will* not do it *now*. Well, In Gods name what am I to do? Must I decline selling my own books on which I sometimes make 100 to 150 pr Cent, & give my whole attention to sell^g books at 25 pr Cent Wou'd God there was not the impediment of a single book of mine in the way, and I think that what with the *Sales* of your books and *Auctions* of ditto on a BOLD & LARGE scale, I might soon enjoy the very dear pleasure of easing your mind. Happy, indeed

wou'd be my state of mind if something cou'd be devised by you that w^d perfectly satisfy us both & concentrate our whole undivided Energies. But while you are thus unsettled, now for dashing to the South, then for confinement to Virginia — this letter for Subscriptions & the next for sales *chiefly*, I am distracted.

Think of the following —

Your embarrassments will last but 12 months or 18. Suppose then you were to fix upon some weekly allowance to me in return for my whole time & attention to your SALES & AUCTIONS — I mean, the use & labours of myself, my son, & Horses & carriage — *excepting* a box for my pamphlets which w^d be almost *entirely resign^d* to my little son; and a few copies, every trip, of Waynes Washington. And I promise you I wd not ask for one Doll^r, of what ever you allow'd me, beyond my own & family's expenditures. In this way a fair Experiment cou'd be made, and perhaps the monies thus rais'd added to your own Revenue wd completely relieve you from your Difficulties. It really seems to me a most Melancholy thing, a most HORRENDUM, INFANDUM *thing* that with thousands upon thousands of Dollars worth of the best Books, on hand, you shou'd be constantly haunted & distress^d with the terrors of Bankruptcy. In *one twelve month* with the Entire Devotion of my time & Exertions to your Interest in Sales & Auction, in Towns & Country places, I might melt down into gold & bank notes as much of Old stock as w^d render your condition perfectly Easy ever afterwards. Perhaps I cou'd sell 10.000 Dolls in 12 months.

. . . On my return next week shall write to you. I pray you for my Peace sake, do something *decisively*, and let us get out of Purgatory as soon as possible. Note & answer every article in this letter.

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DUMFRIES. Aug 8. 1812.

D^r. SIR —

. . . 6. I declare to Heaven the more I think of it the more am I struck with the Exceeding importance of your making a grand dash at SALES & AUCTIONS of your vast piles of Books now lying *useless* both in Philad^a & Virginia &c. If they cou'd be sold only at *half price*, wou'd

it not be INFINITELY better than to risk the Curses of Bankruptcy? But how can a Grand Dash be made, altogether at my risk & chiefly at my expense. This will often be the case. You say that all over first cost, say *half price* shall be equally divided between us. Now in all cases wherein I sell only for *half price* I get *nothing*, and yet myself & Son, my Horses & carriage must be incurring certain & ruinous charges of *ferries, taverns &c. &c.* I therefore say that in my Opinion, it seems *well* worth your while to make an Experiment — suppose only for *one twelve-month* — a Grand Trial at *Sale & Auction* of all y^r Books now here, as also of 10 to 15,000 Dolls. worth of such as you can send to Maryland, Virg^a & North Carolina, all subject to my *sales* — with *discretionary powers* — a liberal allowance to me, on condition of my confining all my exertions to this Business Wholly Solely & undividedly, except Mr. Wayne's Washington and my pamphlets, confided, next *to entirely*, to my little Son.

7. Look over all these items & answer me directly.

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DUMFRIES. August. 28, 1812

D^r. SIR. Your apprehensions that I may & *shall*, some of these odd come shorts, slip my cable & put out to that Sea which has no shores, were very near being realized 8 days ago. I told you I was on my way to an upper County. On the road one of my horses took fright, communicated it to the other & off they went as if the very Devil had got into them both, upset the carriage, caught me under it, with a weight of 700 l^{bs} of Books. I shou'd have been suffocated had it not been for a stout African, sent by Heaven I fondly hope, who step'd up stopp'd the horses & extricated me who had not receiv'd the least Injury. I write this in haste immense & Just to let you know that I am still alive. I sold about 100 Doll^s, good part of it *my own*, but shou'd now send you the *whole* had I not been, day before yesterday call'd on for 50\$ to pay for a new horse — the one which you got of the man at *Frankfort*, having the night before *laid down & died*. NB. He was the *very Animal* that caus'd my so near approach to the Shades. This just comes to bring you 60\$ to stop your wondering what has become of D^r. Sr

Your Aff. M. L. W.

I w^d God Almighty you w^d write, as you *keep promising*, ad Longum. Why dont you send on all my Drunkards & 20 Sets of Maps? . . .

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DUMFRIES Aug. 31 — [18]12

Dr. SIR — I dont know what to think of your Long, *long* Silence. I pray you attend to the following —

I. I want a letter, *ad longum* & INSTANTER, from you.

II. I want 14 Maps of Asia, 14 of Africa & 15 of America —

3. I want to hear from you about the ballance of Drunkards *Looking Glass*. I know well that it is *perfect Insanity* to be thinking of Pence when Talents are before us. But while such Irresolution seems to paralyze our affairs it is better to attend to trifles than to nothing. . . .

5. Can you charge your memory to send in the different boxes to Virginia, the ADVERTISEMENTS of the Gambler? . . .

[FROM CAREY]

L. & F.

September 3 [1812.]

MASON L. WEEMS,

Yours of the 31st ult^o. is before me. I observe its contents. I have been silent for a long time not for want of inclination to write but from an utter inability to write to my mind. I have begun letters several times & tore them [*up*]. And I am at this moment as much at a loss as at any time past. I am no fatalist, thank heaven. But if I were I should be unalterably convinced that an over ruling fatality counteracts & will continue to counteract all our efforts. So thoroughly is this impressed on my mind that if I were freed from the Maps, I should be in favour of an eternal separation. You have proposals for the maps & for a popular Bible. With these much might be done. Nothing is done. You neither sell books, nor procure subscribers. You cannot attend to my business & your own. Nor while your attention is taken up with your own Books is it worth my while to send you my property. You want me to buy your books. In the name of heaven why should a man encumber himself (overwhelmed with stock) with more & that more of the unsaleable kind? It would be perfect insanity. You may sell your own Books; I have no objection. I have no right to control you. You may turn your attention to procure subscribers & sell off the whole of my stock, in your stores. If you are to procure subscribers & to employ others to procure them for the Bible, I wish to be well understood on the subject I will not

send the Bibles to those you employ till the subscribers are procured. I cannot afford to print 1000 Bibles & scatter them over the country in hopes of Subscribers being procured & I shall always keep to myself whatever you chose to order a supply of 100 or 150 Bibles. There is a great deal of property in Virginia. I wish it were sold. I wish as you are on the wing selling your own Books you w^d. collect it & dispose of it. You are on a weekly salary. On a fair & accurate calculation it was found that I could not afford the 25 per cent formerly given & it was agreed to reduce it. But what does it avail reducing it on the one hand to raise the expense on the other? To conclude — if you will sell Books I will supply them. If you procure subscribers I will furnish Bibles. But if like the ass that perished between 2 loads of hay, you will do neither one nor the other waiting to decide which is the best you cannot blame [*me*]. I shall send the Maps & Looking Glass as soon as possible.

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DUMFRIES, Sept. 8, 1812.

D^r. SIR — . . . 3. I pray you to send INSTANTLY the Maps & Drunk^{ds} Look^s Glass. If I had them I w^d set off immediately to N. Carolina. Have you sent any Maps to meet me at Petersburg? I shou^d suppose there is *no danger* in sending them to Petersb^g. at least *at present*. There may be danger e^re long. May it not be worth your while to *think of that*, & secure the great advantage of having a good stock in Petersburg, Richmond, & Fredericksburg before the communication be entirely stopp^d[?] From Petersburg they can be sent at any time to almost any part of N. Carolina. . . .

6. . . . I wish you to remember that the Family bible is my favorite book and that I hope to die selling it. Soon therefore as the Maps shall be put to sleep, I shall be willing to go through the Continent getting sub^s. for the *Bible*. especially with a good comment on Sam^l book 1st. Chap. 8th. I w^d God you cou^d look around you & get me some materials to work with, in the way of making a good compilation of startling ideas on the Curses of Kingly Governments, & send them to me. . . .

[FROM CAREY]

L. & F.

Sept. 12 [1812.]

. . . Yours of the 8th. I received yesterday. It is before me. There is no part of it I do not understand. You appear as if you intend to charge

me with your expenses exclusive of the 25 per Cent on sales. If that be the case it closes our dealings wholly & forever. I never will submit to pay a cent of them. I convinced you that I could not afford 25 per Cent — that the expenses of various kinds amounted to 9, 10 or 11 & in consequence on a certain proportion of the Books to 20 per cent. See the 3rd. article of the contract. You stated the difficulty of keeping the acct^s & the probability of small losses & urged me repeatedly to take the Books, that might remain & the money remitted as a settlement in full whenever we closed our business. To this, I very assuredly consented. there was not the smallest [*hint?*] that I was to defray your expenses or any part of them, either suggested by you or contemplated by me (And come what will of the business I never will on any acct^t. or in any shape or form submit to it). In truth I am so wholly sick of the eternal delays — the explanations — the horrible waste of time — the disbursement of money without any return that if I had the Maps off my hands I would terminate the business for ever. . . .

I have paid for proposals within the last 6 or 8 months 20 per cent of all the money I have rec^d. from you.

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Sep. 10, 1812.

Dr. SIR — . . . The Exploits of the Land & the Water, Hull's tho' Antipodistically different have tended wonderfully to the same end. They have acted on our Patriotism, like the water & Bellows application to a coal-fire, have given it a prodigious heat. . . .

For the political [*tract?*] which I am determin^d to have in the *Bible*, even if I am to get you to print an addition for myself & in my name, I pray you again & again to send me all the little tracts on the abuses of Kingly Governments in the way of taxes, excises, Tythings &c. Would not Mr. Duane's Politics for farmers,¹ & the Livre rouge of France² &c. &c. do service. Mr. Madison & thousands say that such a thing in a popular manner w^d do infinite service. . . .

¹ *Politics for American Farmers* . . . Washington City: Printed . . . for W. Duane. Philadelphia. 1807. LC. list of private pensions paid from the public treasury of France . . . New-York . . . 1794. LC.

² *Le livre rouge, or Red book* . . . being a

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DUMFRIES, Sep. 23 — [18]12

SIR — You say that my letter (the last) squints at charging you with *my expenses*. I never dream't of such a thing. I said indeed, that as in the *auctioneering business*, (so often propos'd as a grand mean of sweeping off old stock & getting large monies in hand) I shou'd get nothing for my share, seeing that the books w'd., in many instances at least, raise nothing above the prime cost, I thought you ought to allow me a dollar pr day. This was propos'd, not claim'd. You are continually talking of a *Seperation*. I am the person who has most right to talk in that way. I am the injur'd one. No sooner is a contract made but it is broken again; and that too under circumstances infinitely mortifying to my feelings. Twenty or 30 of the most respectable characters of my acquaintance are now daily lavishing on me their Curses for promising them *books* (under the sanction of your own engagement) and running them to some expence & trouble of getting shelves &c. &c. and after all, *disappointing* them. I have receiv'd several letters, not of the most pleasant sort, from those injur'd People, and me it is they curse & not you. . . .

NB. The difference of 4\$ &c. in the *cash* %^s as here stated, arises from sundry *chap books* which were rec'd & sold to that amount (4\$) — and which *you* had not charg'd. Tho it is equally probable that these little books (amount^g to about 12\$) were made up of my *own* little trumpery, not charged. . . .

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DUMFRIES, Sep. 29, 1812

SIR — . . . Can hear nothing of the Maps for this place, nor of the D[*runkard*']^s. looking glass. But for the faint hope it may do some good to Youth I cou'd almost wish I had never written that illfated pamphlet — tho' it outsells anything I have lately written. . . .

Had I foreseen that I shou'd have lost 10 months time about the Maps & the D^s. Looking Glass I w'd have sent my stage as far as Balt^o. to meet them, or w'd have had an edition printed at Alexand^a. . . .

*L. & F. Vol. 86.**DUMFRIES, Octob. 1. 1812.*

SIR . . . I have an extraordinary young man, a Nephew,¹ of singular activity & smartness and with a couple of thousand dollars in hand, who is very anxious to join me in the spring. And then, the *Maps* being *work^d off*, I trust we shall enter on a plan of Bible selling that shall, (*Deo Bened*) far outdo all *former doings*. In the present Jeopardiz^d state of commerce on our sea coasts, it appears to me that Petersburg is to be look^d on as the Grand Depot. Perhaps 40 Counties at least trade with that place. . . .

And I pray you forget not to send in y^r boxes to Petersburg some good Documents on the Curses of Kingly Governments, for my own edition of Bible ²

*L. & F. Vol. 86.**PORT ROYAL, Octob. 3^d [1812.]*

SIR. In consequence of continuing in this vile *faineant* state I made a trip on my way to King & Queen Court (which sits 55 miles from here) to this place. . . .

You complain that the remittances do not come so speedily as you cou'd wish. I call upon YOURSELF to witness that I told you from the BEGINNING that I *must* have a good long SEED TIME. I declare to God Almighty I told you that *a 1000 times*. . . .

. . . I advise you to send by all means. And also of the Immense quantities now lying at Dumfries, Fredericksb^g, Falmouth &c, I pray you, for God's sake, allow me to "*work them about:*" *some here & some there, &c. &c. &c. wherever they will sell.*

By all means send here some cheap Bibles.

¹ Elijah Weems, a nephew of Mason Locke, of whom we know little until 1816, when he was apparently already established in a bookselling business in Georgetown, in whose newspapers he advertised widely, particularly in the *National Messenger*. We know that he worked from time to time for Carey, but between the lines of the letters between that firm and Mason Locke, we can read that Elijah's habits were uncertain

and his reliability not above suspicion. At one time there seems to have been considerable friction between his uncle and himself. — Elijah published for Weems at Georgetown, 1820, his *God's Revenge against Duelling* (see letter of Nov. 15, 1819). For other letters of Elijah's, see Feb. 18 and March 15, 1820.

² Never found by me.

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DUMFRIES, Octob. 15, 1812

SIR — . . . When I was a little Shaver and read "*Man that's born of a Woman hath but a short time to live & is full of misery,*" I thought it *incredible*, so *very incredible* that nothing but the sacred ground I saw it standing on cou'd have kept me from calling it a *lie* outright. But now I find it all too true. And sorry am I to say that You are one of those who have let me into the secret.

During my successful rout to Georg^a & S. Carolina, you *agreably* to contract, paid all charges for *transportation* of Books, *ferriages*, *waggon-ages*, *Servants aid &c. &c.* — without any drawback on me of *4 wheel^d carriage*, *Horses*, *Attendant &c. &c.* And in addition to all this, (and *agreably* to *Sacred Covenant*) I had both the pleasure & the Profit of a Great many Book stores.

Well, now, nearly *all* this great advantage of Bookstores is taken from me — and then all the expence of transporting the Books (*except to the port of Entry*) is thrown upon me. I have to find the Waggonage, ferriage &c &c with my own Carriage, Horses, taverns, Provisions, Attendant &c &c. And after all *you will not be persuaded* that my condition is alter'd infinitely for the worse!! You will not make me any daily allowance unless I am *actually engag'd in auctioneering*, — and of such articles, many of them at least, as will never make me any support for my family. . . .

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DUMFRIES, Octob. 16, 1812.

SIR — . . . Also write to me about the proposition I made yesterday to *annihilate* all your Book stock in this Country in 5 or 6 months. I told you yesterday that many of your books from 4 years exposure to this hot climate, are already much injur^d. All the rest are daily hastening to injury. *To move them about to new stores* is certainly much better than to let them stay where they are to be blown upon as they have been for 3 or 4 years past; but even this *moving about* is but a slow and precarious way of getting them turn'd into Cash, in comparison with *Auctioneering*. Were this but immediately undertaken & pushed on with

Spirit & Judgment, every book that you have in this Country — every book, in total amount perhaps 8 to 10,000 Doll^s — every book now & for 4 years past utterly useless, and now hasten^g to DECAY; liable to fire, & for a long time a source of trouble to you every time you thought of them, w^d be converted into Cash or Good Notes on short payments. — You allow me a 4th on my ordinary sales, give me a 5th and allow me one dollar per diem, & I'll take my Nephew with me, and my Carriage & horses, and in one fortnight commence *operations* from the Potomac to Salisbury in N. Carolina. It appears to me that this is a Crisis of a *singularly ticklish* Nature to your Stock in this Country. Wheat, the staple of this Country bears at present a noble price. but shou'd the war put on its *most rigid aspect*, shou'd all intercourse be stopp^d, our produce lie upon our hands, & money vanish out of the land, what will you then get for your books???

Money is now, comparatively in *plenty*, the Legislatures of Maryland, Virginia, & N. Caro^a. will soon be in Session, and opportunities will be afforded to do more than you can rationally count on in any time to come. And if all this stock were fairly off y^r. hands, and Cash enough brought in to ward off any disastrous blow now menaced against you, and some grand new works in the Subscriptionering way quickly set about how prosperously & pleasantly might you not pass the Evening of your days?

Let me intreat you to give this affair that *deep consideration* that it merits, and write to me directly. I shall be at home, God willing, in 6 days. I tell you again that *your* books, & the Times, tho' bad now, will soon become much worse I fear. And if the books were all mine I woud very gladly take the *prime cost of them* rather than let them lie here, or send them back. . . .

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DUMFRIES NOV. 21st. 1812

DEAR SIR. . . . I am still confined to my bed with a most obstinate case of the Jaundice & am obliged to employ a scribe to write to you —
I am my D^r. Sir &c &c.

*L. & F. Vol. 86.**DUMFRIES. Nov. 31. [1812.]*

Dr. SIR — I am, thank God, on the road to Health again I believe, but my progress like Old Age up a Hill seems to be but slow & snail like. I mourn sincerely that so little has been done in the Map affair, but I don't see that anything is to be blam^d for it but the War, for on my return in June you seem^d to be so irresolute about sending Maps to the South owing as you said to the enormous price of insurance that I was held back from doing anything to purpose. These things have all worked very much against *me*, as to *yourself* it matters perhaps *much less*, for what you can sell yourself is a clear saving of the *commission*.

The Grand Courts of N. Carolina will begin at Carrituck on the 1st Monday in March. . . .

I ask yourself whether *Experience* has not evinc^d that when all MUZZLING & CONFUSION have been taken out of the way I have not sold you a great many Books & paid you a great deal of Money? What *has* been, may be *again*.

Much love to M^{rs}. C. & family.

*L. & F. Vol. 86.**DUMFRIES. Dec. 3^d. 1812*

Dr. SIR — . . . Confiding in my strength beyond what was meet, I suffer^d. a slight relapse — but hope I am luffing up again a little. . . .

Shou'd anything happen to me, you will find exceeding safety in my Nephew. . . .

*L. & F. Vol. 86.**Dec. 4, 1812.*

Dr. SIR — . . . If you can instantly send me another box containing 24 to 30 of the 5\$ Bibles, & consign the box to Ch^s. Gwinn & Co.¹ County wharf Balt^o. request to Mr. Gwinn to send it by the Herring

¹ 'Gwinn, Charles & Co. mer. 5 Spear's whf' *Baltimore Directory*, 1814, LC. — 'The Partnership existing between Wm. Smith & Charles Gwinn; trading under the firm name of Charles Gwinn

& Co. is this day dissolved. All claims for or against the concern will be settled by Charles Gwinn, at No. 5 Spears' Wharf. Charles Gwinn will continue business as before at the store

Bay packet to Captⁿ. *Wm. Weems*¹ Herring Bay. If you pay instant attention to these two boxes you will get a good deal more money by the Spring than if they were not sent — and I have promis^d the People in Maryland their Bibles at Christmass.

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DUMFRIES. Dec. 6. 1812

Dr. SIR — Yours of the 3^d was receiv^d this morning. When I read in your Bible of good men in former times, that they were so dear to God for their Virtues, that for *their sakes*, he caus^d the FAMILIES wherein they lived to *prosper*, I am almost tempted from your ceaseless complaints of the “horrible fatalities that attend all your concerns wherein I have any agency” to conclude that I must be a Perfect Reprobate, a very Jonas constantly flying from the Lord & drawing after me nothing but storms & whales to swallow up everybody that embarks a foot with me. Such at times are my fears, but thank God, they are but momentary. I see People exceedingly prosperous who, I fear, are not more moral than I am. My conscience tells me that I am sober, temperate, honest, Industrious, frugal, and indeed, setting one or two FOLLIES aside, everything I cou^d reasonably expect to be in this state of imperfection. The truth is Mr. Carey, & I *rejoice exceedingly to think* of it, my *Heart* tells me the blame of what you complain of, lies at other doors than mine. You sent me in two years 60,000\$ of your Books!! I adore you for that mark of confidence. You have receiv^d but 24,000\$ in cash. You mourn it as a dreadful Judgment. I mourn it too, but not as a Judgment, nor as a Blame on me. — . . .

I hope you'll at least recollect enough of my continued advice & of your own unfortunate disregard of it, as not to pin the blame of this fatality to my sleeve any more. As to the Map business — the unfortunate mistake made by me in the choice of the Waggon threw me back 2 months. I return^d to Philad^a for another waggon. The hope of some

heretofore occupied by the firm.' *Federal Gazette* & *Baltimore Daily Advertiser*, Feb. 4, 1815, MDHS. — 'Mr. Charles Gwinn introduced steam power for a flour mill in his warehouse at the end of Commerce Street Wharf . . .' See

The Chronicles of Baltimore, J. Thomas Scharf, Baltimore, 1874, p. 341, LC.

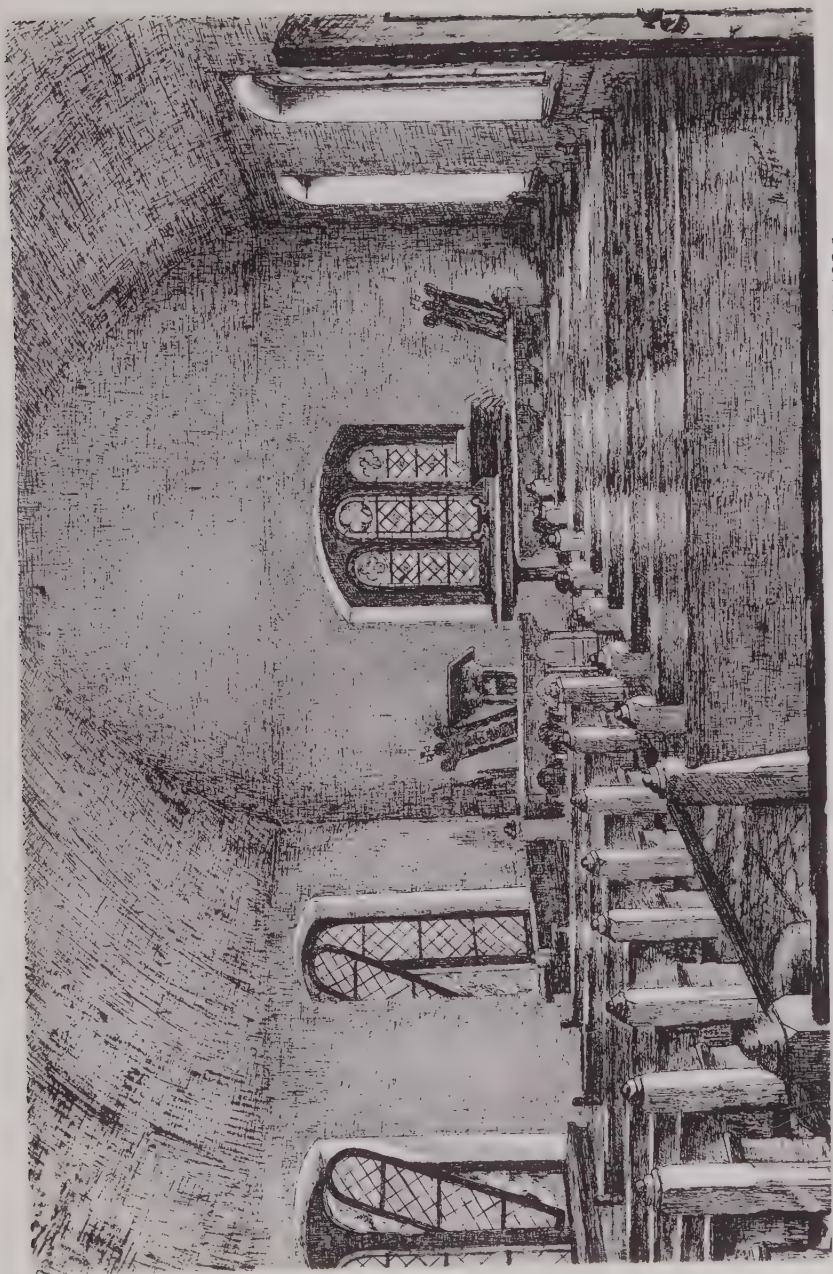
¹ One of the few surviving own brothers of Mason Locke who made a success in the ship-owning business. (See *Appendices I and V.*)

sales & settling of stores in the peninsula¹ led you to agree to my running down thither, this cost me 6 weeks of my life, as you *w^d not settle* the stores there. By this time June was arriv^d. Immediately on my return to Dumfries, War was declar^d which so rais^d the price of Insurance that you spoke of the Southern Country as an *interdicted* thing. In this state you continued till the Fall, I in the meantime going about to little Courts & Camp meetings to pick up what small sums I cou^d for you. In Octob. latter part, I was attack^d with the Jaundice. A violent charge — an epidemic hereabouts — of which & of other maladies, several of our young & Robust ones are now in the church yard. From this you may see that I am not so much the Jonas of these fatalities as you seem to think. But all this notwithstanding, I am willing to allow that I am better at *executing* than at *contriving*. I wrote to you for some books, chiefly of the sorts which I have not had for a long time; if not perfectly convenient don't send them. I wrote to you also to send some Bibles at 4.50 (my edition I mean). Many of these are bespoke. I do not wish to be idle this winter. . . .

I shoud be glad if you cou^d meet me with a box or two of 30 to 50 Bibles, consigned to Ch^s. Gwinn & Co. County wharf, Baltimore, for David Weems,² Herring Bay. Keep me in Bibles & Maps I care for no other articles. You said you had sent Bibles & Maps for me to Mr. Grammar, Petersburg. I wrote to him. He answer'd about 1st Nov, he had seen nothing of them at that time. Pray inquire into this thing. They can't be lost. Write to me by return of mail whether you can send the Bibles to meet me at Herring bay. Of the few sent here, 11 as I stated were sold last week by my nephew & the money sent you 50\$. The *rest* he takes away tomorrow to another court or two below this. So that I shall have none for my Sub^s. in Maryland unless they be sent on in the *short & quick* way I have advised. You say you have given your notes for 3333\$. How soon might that money be rais^d from the thousands of Dollars worth of books which you have lying all over this country & doing worse than nothing, growing worse & worse every day. Why not fix on some plan to dispose of them? So anxious am I to sweep off all that lumber into good cash, & begin de novo some grand undertak-

¹ The Virginia colloquialism for the James River region of Williamsburg and Norfolk.

² Weems' second surviving own elder brother. (See *Appendices I and V.*)



INTERIOR OF ALL HALLOWS CHURCH, SOUTH RIVER, MARYLAND, IN 1884
After a pen drawing by M. Louisa Stuart

ing, that if you can think of no other way I am willing to fall to work the moment I get well on the original scheme of *auctioneering* & on the terms therein *agreed on*. In that event I w^d get me two more horses, & a large waggon, & having with me a Nephew, a young man equal in all respects of Activity & acuteness to Henry Carey, Esq^r., I think that in 4 or 5 months the *whole of your* Books in all this Country might be converted into *Money*. . . .

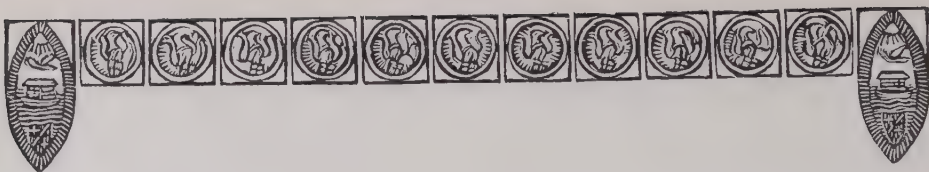
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DUMFRIES. Dec. 8. 1812

Dr. SIR — . . . 1st Are the books which were sent to *Annapolis*, still at that place? If so, may I auctioneer them to the LEGISLATURE.

2^d. If you don't chuse [*to*] auctioneer your *old stock*, what will you take for any part of it that I may *select*? If I can, (as there is *now some prospect*) get my money back from old Col^o. Ewell's Estate, will you make me a deduction of 40 pr Cent? for Cash?

3^d. If you feel any remorse about sending me 40 Bibles (4.50) to Annapolis at yr own risk & return, I will take them, at 33 1/3 pr cent *discount*, on my own *a/c & chance* of sales provided you *deliver* them to me at Annapolis (which from its vicinity to Balt^o. can cause you but a bagatelle either of cost or risk) & will pay you not in 9, but 6 months — giv^g *Brundige for Security*. You see I am beginning, to wish at least, to do something tho' on a small scale, for myself. This business of making the most solemn contracts today & annulling them tomorrow, thereby *confusing, stupifying, & paralyzing* what little of Brain & energy I possess, will never do. I had rather have PEACE & a Hoecake in a cabin, than the contrary with Cakes ambrosial in a palace. I have been labouring now fifteen or 16 years for you, & you know how hard & how honestly, & after all I own very little more than a tythe of what you threw away on Conrad. I dont blame you. But it seems to say that it is high time, after clearing off the *Maps*, to run some, tho' small work of my own with the Bible. Pray write to me immediately.



[*Wit*] is a qualification which, like the passions, has a natural wildness that requires governing. Left to itself, it soon overflows its banks, . . . and brings disrepute on the fountain. — THOMAS PAINE.

*L. & F. Vol. 2.*¹

DUMFRIES. Jany 26, 1813.

D^r SIR — . . . Yours of the 4th. is a good letter. The storm had blown heavy upon us a long time, the sky may yet clear up in time to get fish enough to serve ourselves & children into port. Let God take the same good care of those that are to follow us. But tho' my *hard hard* life has been to me as the School of Diogenes, yet am I much troubled indeed.

The First & Fairest of all the flowers of my Family² is drooping, I fear to rise no more. The scarlet fever bringing on an Abortion, is conducting to an early grave the most affectionate & Endearing Child that ever a Parent had. The Doctor still had hopes — for me I have, at times, but little hope — But thank God, I have no fears. But I cant answer for my feeling when setting down to our little table I shall look to the place where she sat and see it empty.

But let my children live or die. I feel that I can never cease to be *bonest & industrious*. Not till last night did I learn that Johnson had relaxed of some part of his *bond*.

L. & F. Vol. 2.

DUMFRIES. Jany [*for Feby.*] 7, 1813.

D^r. SIR — The curtain is dropt; and the face that was redden'd with such Joy when you came to my house is now pale & cold in the grave. The hand that planted her for a season in the little nursery of my Family has remov^d her to his own garden above — to a soil & climate more congenial to her nature, and where she may sooner acquire those angel

¹ Here begins a newly numbered series of letter files.

² Weems' eldest daughter, Frances. (See *Appendix XVII.*)

tints & odours that shall render her the delight of HIM who alone can rear such flowers. This I believe, and, thank God, on good grounds. Hence, I shed no tears. How can I shed tears for her who came so near perfection — who never excited in my bosom any emotions but those of highest esteem, admiration & love? Indeed when I think of her spotless Life, and Angel Virtues, so *devout, dutiful & affectionate*, always so serene & smiling Herself, and so caress'd & idoliz'd by all around her, I feel I have no cause of tears but those of heartiest congratulation with her & of equal Gratitude to Heaven. Before I quit the subject, I must tell you, as I know you are fond of the novel & sublime in Sentiment, a singular fact which occur'd in the moment of my Daughters exit. The last groan of the Soul just bursting the door of her prison house is, generally, you know, followe^d by a Loud tumultuous cry of surrounding friends. In her it was answer'd by every person in the crowded chamber, with a *profound silence* — the involuntary expression of their reverence of her Virtues & of their Assurance that she was gone to Happiness. As you were a great Favorite of hers, I thought you wou'd like to hear what a Glorious end she made. I have several relatives & many acquaintances in Philadelphia &c. &c. were her early fate (blossoming seventeen) mention^d in the Papers, it might awaken in some "the *Joy of Grief*" and teach to others the wisdom of being early good.

I send you forty Dollars. As you bought the *Maps* partly on my a/c I shall never forsake you in the sale of them. . . .

For God's sake dont fear that the *Maps* can lie on your hands, 'tis impossible, they will pay you much more than bank Interest on your money. I pray God that Miss Eleanor may be restor'd to good health & may grow up to be all that your affections can possibly wish for her in this and a better Life.

L. & F. Vol. 2.

RICHMOND. Feb. 21. 1813

DR. SIR — . . . I had thought of looking out some VERY Industrious young Fellow or fellows, to dash from house to house thro' the Country on the Map business. Cou'd *you* get *one* for N. & S. Carolina? The young fellow, Mr. Babcock, sent by Johnson, is determin^d to go *home*.

*L. & F. Vol. 2.**DUMFRIES, [n.d. received Mar. 9, 1813.]*

D^r. SIR — You will see by the above [*signed receipt of Sam^t Pleasants*] & one of a similar sort, that I have sent you 400 Dollars from Richmond. But I must stop a moment to assure you that I am much pleas^d with the fortitude you display on occasion of the late breach made in your Family. Tis a great thing to have worthy apprehensions of the *Divine Attributes*. All things go on smoothly with him who keeps constantly in mind that God is at the helm. Our Daughters are “*taken away*,” I trust, “*from the Evil to come*.” They are in that happy world “*where the wicked cease from troubling*” & where we shall suffer no more trouble *on their account*, nor they *on account of us*. “O my dear Mother,” said my dying daughter to her Mother, “*how happy I am that I am dying, for now I shall never feel the pain which I so much dreaded, of seeing you die*.” Our daughters knew not each other in the flesh, but perhaps some of those spirits Elect who feast on the smiles of Infant Saints may have made them acquainted with each other; and, for what we know, they may often talk together of us who are now striving to enlighten & moralize the World.

However, leaving all that just where we found it — in the very best hands in the Universe; and as the spot between us and the company of our departed children is but small indeed, let us strive to cover it over with the light of our good works. I am much called on for the cheap Bibles, about Dumfries, &c. &c. the Bible at 6\$ *which you advertiz^d*, by *subscription*. Those @ 4.50 which you sent to Petersburg are No. 1. — Miserable paper, miserable prints. . . .

As to the Maps I fear they will prove a bad speculation; but still by proper management I have no doubt they may be work^d off and in time to give you bank interest on your money. As I have so much of y^r business on hand as to interfere, some things with others, w^d it not be well to get some *one or two or more* young men to dash off on this business, this *spring & summer only*! In Maryland, Virg^a, & N. Carolina, there are at any rate Wealthy families enough to take 1000 of the Maps. You have but about 240 — And if a genteel young fellow, mounted on horseback, with one of the Maps in a nice tin case, were to dash on from one *rich family* to *another*, taking a good letter or two introductory

with him to influential characters, and taking care always to get letters as he went along, and making good use of the Court house & Election Meetings, &c. &c. I have no doubt but that with such a young man's labours & *my own*, you w^d get clear of the Maps this year with exceeding ease. . . .

[To C. P. WAYNE]

Dreer Col. HSP.

PETERSBURG Ap. 27. 1813

D^r. SIR, . . .

Yours Aff.

. . . Poor Doct^r. Rush. Have this moment heard of his departure to that world where "Othello's occupation's gone." Thank God there is no Physicking there.

[To MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 2.

PETERSBURG Apr. 29 — 1813

SIR — . . . I have with me one of the cleverest young men in America for business, a Nephew, of whom I once made mention to you. He is willing in order to help us thro' with the Maps, to get himself a gig and dash off by himself thro' the Country from one wealthy farmer to another. I have told him that if he will devote himself cordially to this business, he will obtain a *liberal commission* from you. I have promis^d to give him up all my profits on every copy he can sell. He wishes you w^d let him know what you can afford to give him. Mr. Kimber¹ w^d give him perhaps 25 pr Cent — indeed no doubt of it. You can write to him or to me at Halifax where we shall be in 15 days. Believe me it will be well worth your while to interest him in your service. He w^d please you to a fraction. But none of them will bear with so many crosses & thwartings as you have laid on

M. L. WEEMS

N.B. Some of the money sent you is from his sale of Maps. He has got 3 or 4 Sub. but the money not yet pd.

¹ Perhaps of Kimber & Conrad, for whom Carey printed a Bible in 1809; or of Kimber & Sharpless, 93 Market Street, Philadelphia, one of the firms which sold Weems' *Anecdotes of Gamblers*, 1816 (*Bibliography*, title 192).

In two hours I set off again back to Northampton N. Carolina, where I left him at a Court — tis 75 miles from Petersburg.

Write to Halifax, N. Carolina. 14 days ago sent you 90 Dolls. from Gates County N. Carolina

L. & F. Vol. 2.

BALT^o. June 10. 1813.

SIR — Inclos^d I send you — 200.

Sh^d have sent you 300 more but my Nephew who is now getting subs. for the Maps in N. Carolina, took that sum to get himself a handsome gig, horse &c. &c. On his *return* I hope to get that sum refunded and also 100 or 200 more, which you shall have in due season. . . .

[*Written on the outside*] My good friend M^r Lucas, the bearer, is pleas^d to promise that he will bring me two copper plate engravings (frontispieces) of the Gambler & Drunkard. I pray you for Heaven's sake [*letter cut off.*]

L. & F. Vol. 4.

WASHINGTON. July 11. 1813

SIR . . . I am extremely in want of about 150 to 200 Doll^s. It has indeed been my own wish as cordially perhaps as your expectation that you shou^d be receiv^g rather than lending money, especially *from me*, But for 4 weeks past I have been doing next to nothing. . . .

Yours respectfully,

[To MRS. JAMES MADISON¹]

LC.

DUMFRIES, July 22, 1813.

I beg leave, in this way, to inform M^{rs}. Madison that I have it very much at heart to reprint a book which I firmly believe will do great good. As I know of no Lady who has so large an interest at stake *in this Country* as M^{rs} Madison has, nor any who holds so distinguished a place in it, I

¹ This letter is printed in full in *Life and Letters of Dolly Madison*, Allen C. Clark, 1914, pp. 155-156, LC.

don't know to whom, in equity, I ought so properly to look for patronage to my book as to herself. It is certainly no adulation, Honor'd Madam to say that you are one of the "*Favor'd Few*" who to do good need but to will it. The elevation of your Rank, together with the charm of your benevolent spirit & polish'd manners diffus^d so widely as they are by the Members of the National Legislature & the brilliant Crowds that attend your Levees give you an Influence which no other Lady can pretend to especially among the Fair Sex of our Country. And this forms another reason why I solicit your patronage to this Book; tis a book peculiarly apt to please & profit the Ladies. Many of the finest delineations of characters in it are taken from persons of their sex; the Graces which render them so singularly amiable & beneficent are painted in colours uncommonly correct & captivating; and to crown all, the style is admirably suited to the Sentiments and subjects — at once elegantly rounded & musically sweet. The book I allude to is "*Hunter's Sacred Biography*" — or a delineation of sundry of the most distinguish^d Characters recorded in the Holy Scriptures. Tho' an European work it has gone thro' several editions in America; and is spoken of in terms little short of rapture, by all who read it. The patronage of this excellent book which I solicit of M^{rs}. Madison is a *Recommendation* of it. A recommendation of it, Honor^d Madam from your pen w^d insure it a wide Circulation among your Fair Country women; and mingled as it w^d be by maternal Love, with the milk of a thousand nurseries it wou'd contribute to raise up myriads of Angelic Characters to adorn & bless the rising Generation. Knowing how very dear such a result w^d be to you — to You Honor^d Madam who have been nurtur'd in the bosom of a Society remarkable for their Christian Philanthropy, I cannot but assure myself that you will with pleasure give me the powerful aid of your Recommendation to this highly moralizing work. Hundreds of the clergy are ready to give me their recommendations, but as it is chiefly on the Ladies that I count for the Circulation of it, I had rather have a few lines from M^{rs}. Madison than from a whole Bench of Bishops. You will please observe that Doctor Blair was much indebted for the wide circulation of his Sermons, to Queen Charlotte. As you may not have seen this Book I send you a borrowed Volume;¹ at the 68th page of which, part the 2^d, you will find the commencement of the Biography of Ruth from which I flatter myself you will find sufficient matter to elicit the approbation I request, & which I believe all important to its wide Success. I pray you accept my heartiest Congratulations for the returning health of His Excellency — to whom I herewith send a Vol of "*Doct^r. Hunter.*" If in the lucid intervals of Public Care, his Excellency shou'd honor this vol. with a coup

¹ Evidently not his own edition. (*Bibliography, titles 229, 230.*)

d'œil he will perhaps discover in it the marks of a Genius & Spirit which I think will please him. With sentiments of the Highest Respect, I remain, Honor^d Madam

Your very hum^b Serv^t

M. L. WEEMS.

[To MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 4.

DUMFRIES, July 25. [18]13.

SIR — Some men asking for bread have been complimented with a brick bat. I ask^d you for the loan of a few dollars, but behold in lieu thereof you have given me a dozen pages of abuse — and abuse too which I hoped I had perfectly neutraliz'd to your own satisfaction forty times and more. I formerly wonder'd that Neighbours sh'd go to Law, and nations shou'd go to War. But I am done with wondering now. Your letters, eternally misrepresenting things, extenuating yourself & setting down all in malice against me, have fully satisfied [*me*] that there are some men who w^d throw Moses himself off his guard & set the Holy S^t. John to quarrel & fight. But I shall trouble you with no more refutations of such oft-refuted charges. I shall no more remind you how you found me in the streets of Philad^a. a poor man going about with my Life of Washington & Mary Finley and so on, and so on, laying the foundation for better things — I shall not remind you — how you w^d not let me rest untill I join'd you — and how we were to have had 30 or 40 nice captandum baits — and how we were to have had 250 little stores — and how very useful we were to have been — and how very rich both of us were to have become in a time — and how, instead of those nice little dispatch Boats & barges you all at once overwhelm'd me & the whole project with twenty or thirty 74^s & Razees of your own launching — and how in spite of such murderous heapings & overlayings I scrambled at such a rate as to send you five & twenty thousand dollars, and yet clear^d but little for you & perhaps less for myself. I say I shall never more go over all these "*Infanda, Horenda, Miserabilia dictu.*" There is no need of it. You yourself tacitly acknowledge that all former disasters arose from your own impetuous & imprudent conduct of the business, and therefore last Jan^y twelve month you wrote, sign'd, seal'd & deliver'd to a new store-plan of the right sort which was to have

been run in connexion with the Maps. All at once you chang'd [your] mind with respect to the stores, and yet I must do all in the Maps. . . . Cou'd my plans have been acted on, i.e of ascertaining beforehand the *Character* Political & Religious of the People in the different Neighbourhoods, & then *suitably to these, to select the books*, first in *small quantities* with a few necessary School books & Family Bibles, I say who can be so blind as not to see that such a plan, with a little *seed time* as I us^d to say, allow^d to sow the crops properly, cou'd *not possibly* fail to succeed. But, it was all in vain that I talk^d. There was indeed a Fatality as w^d seem that stood in the way & forbid it. How often did I challenge you to let me establish my reasonings by Experiment? How often, when you were so eager to pour your millions of books upon me, did I not say, '*No. give me only 5000\$ worth for the first year, & if I don't turn them into cash give me no more. If I do then let me have 10.000, & so on!!*' And now because disasters have ensued — disasters which I foresaw — disasters from that most injudicious overwhelming system — of eternally heaping & heaping heavy ill-sorted Books — the blame is all thrown *on me*, and the fatal effects of your wilful, your most obstinate departure from, nay counteraction of my plans, are all father^d upon what you are pleas^d to call "*my accursed project*" Why God's Mercy on my Soul! What but Fatalism, what but most horrible fatalism cou'd cause a Gentlemen so clear sighted in all other the deepest & darkest things to be so blind in a matter so plain and superficial as this!! For 6 weeks past I have done nothing, except gett'g one or two subscribers for the Maps — some of the time spent with my family — some little vexatious business of my own — some attendance on Congress about Mr Wayne's affair — together with the belief that my young nephew was busy for you — have delay^d me — to which I shou'd add the Alarm from the British in this neighbourhood — moving your books into the Country — and a dangerous sickness in town. Last week we buried our youngest child;¹ and my Angel Daughter Susan,² long pining the death of her Sister Fanny, is now confin^d to her bed to rise, I fear, no more. This week however will determine. After that result [*is*] known, I shall set out to do something, but what I

¹ Milton, his fifth son. (See *Appendix XVII.*)

² Susan Ann, his second daughter, who lived until 1821. (See *Appendix XVII.*)

know not. You were to have given me 25 Dolls a week, but that you have taken away, you were to have given me a great many valuable Stores with the maps — but these also you have taken away from me. I wish you w^d immediately give me a sketch of your *views & wishes*; what you are *willing to do for me & what I am to do for you*. You say I have aided my Nephew in *extorting from you a farther discount, &c &c &c*. You know human nature too well to believe that any man does wrong for *nothing*. I don't *derive a Cent from his profits on the maps* — So far from it, I actually gave him while riding with me the *whole of my profits* on the maps save one dollar pr sett, and this I did to encourage him to exert himself for you. There was a time when I might have *bilk'd* you as you term it, to some purpose, 'tis too late now that we are so near the close of all our dealings. I told you the reason why I had lent my Nephew some little of your money — since which time I have used a little more. Having as you know suffer^d hundreds of my money to lie in your hands I thought it no great infraction of Justice to take some of yours. On striking the ballance it will be found that I have us^d but little of yours. As to my Nephew, if you can engage him in your interest you will do well — Not that he is remarkable for wit or Education, but he is very industrious, very popular in his manners, & very much a man of business. And I wish you to believe that, tho' from some unexpiated Sin I suppose which howls against me, we are forbidden to prosper together, yet I should be glad to introduce to you one who may be very serviceable to you. As to myself, tho' in circumstances very different from what I anticipated in 1809, yet I feel no fear. I see the Rich so frequently corrupted and cursed by their *Riches*, that I shall be very content with a *little*. And as I have been now twenty five years very laboriously & conscienceously serving God in circulating good books I am pretty certain he will never let me want. All the books that I shall ever want of yours, will be the Family Bible & Washington. these with some heavy subscription book & my pamphlets, will serve my turn. My mind will be infinitely more at ease & apt to exert greater energies. . . .

As my Daughter's indisposition will detain me a week in this neighbourhood you can answer my letter *as above desired*.

[ELIJAH WEEMS TO MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F.PETERSBURGH August 27th. 1813.

Dr SIR, . . . I hope Sir you did not think me too Precipitant in requesting you not to write Me about the Parson, it is very true I know his faults to my sorrow, but when your writing would be of no purpose, knowing that it was utterly out of my power to open his eyes, was the reason I made the request, and am fully satisfied that you have had cause to complain, and equally — assured it was not your intention to wound my feelings . . .

Your Ob^t. Hum^{le}. S^t.

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 4.DUMFRIES. Sep. 2. 1813

SIR — . . . “*It is my wish*” say you, “*to prove the correctness of my conduct towards you.*”

But how, in heaven’s name will you ever do this while you continue to reason from false premises? To reason against the *right* way of doing a thing, from the ill success that had follow^d the *wrong* way of doing it, is so unnatural a violence to reason & Justice that no man of your clear head & honest heart can ever hope to rest fully satisfied with it even tho’ he shou^d have succeeded in carrying his point against a poor simple intellect like mine. And this, *to your great credit I speak it*, is the real cause of your writing me so many long letters to justify yr *conduct towards me*. These letters are splendid proofs of a Soul which cannot injure & oppress and yet be fully at ease. The “*hæret lateri betnalis arundo*” appears in them palpable as a pyramid. And no wonder. A 1000 times have I seen you fall into rage at the first flash of anything unfair in *argument only*, then how much more at anything unfair in Action. And that there has been something of this in *your conduct towards me*, is so palpable that you will never, in my opinion be able to lose the apprehension of it.

. . . You were to have sent 250 Stores; you sent 50!! School books, Family Bibles, and little popular tracts were to have been the Assortments; you sent hardly any Schoolbooks, hardly any Family bibles: and in place of cheap useful tracts whose titles & contents w^d have excited every body’s curiosity, & come within everybodys purse, you sent loads

of books many of them of names unknown & uninteresting to the multitude and of unwieldy sizes & of affrighting prices. That my plan w^d have succeeded to the full of our wishes, look but at the great sales of Mary Finley, Washingtons Life, &c. &c. Why, Sir, these sure & quick selling pieces *alone*, with neat assortments of School books & Bibles w^d, when plac^d in proper hands & expos^d to such countless thousands as w^d have come within the vortex of our Industry, have created a vast Revenue. And had I but been permitted to go on in this slow & sure way — a small part only of y^r Capital vested, and in stock of the quick selling, money-turning, Joy inspiring sort, my life w^d have been filled with pleasure — the pleasure of diffusing useful knowledge through our country, the pleasure of making elegant provision for my family, and the pleasure of meeting to the full your high expectations of my industry & honor. But in place of such a heaven you have inflicted on me a Hell — a hell at seeing myriads of your Capital vested in books of the unsaleable sort, and these too shipp^d to such an *out of the way, miserable* place as Dumfries, with so much drudgery of unpacking, assort^s &c &c &c. and then so much precious time lost in re-shipping to Alexandria for slow & uncertain distribution thro' the country — to which I may add, the hell of knowing that you were expecting remittances for the books & they not yet at their stations! and expecting remittances proportion^d to the whole Capital & yet not half of that Capital in right books — you disappointed — my family suffering — the Public not benefited, & my feelings nearly damn'd — and yet after all this, after pointing out a plan so easily practicable, after selling you my Life of Washington, that I might become more entirely absorbed in so delightful an undertaking, and still more with the same view after offering to you the *whole* of my little stock in trade at y^r *own prices* as you well remember & at y^r own times of payment, I am still anathmatiz^d as the Author of all your misfortunes!! As to those who, as you say, “*absolutely refus^d to take your books on any terms,*” I have told you repeatedly that they were persons to whom I was constrain^d to solicit to take off my hands some of those masses which were so unfortunately poured upon me. . . . All attempts to justify your conduct is [*sic*] but like attempt^s to smother an inward fire. But of this there is no necessity. I absolve you, tho' my once bright prospects of usefulness, Profit, Pleasure have all been

most miserably marr'd — tho' of five years since the plan was form^d I have been kept idle *half my time* doing nothing but unpacking, assort^g, repacking, running about for waggons & boats to transport unsaleable Books, when I might have been one hundred pr cent at least, better employ^d in pushing my own Books, my Life of Washington, Life of Marion &c. &c. which w^d, as you well know, have turn^d out much more to my Interest, both of Honor, Profit, Pleasure, yet I absolve you. I heartily thank you for cutting the tow rope & leaving me to manage my own little bark alone. And in return for my hearty forgiveness of you I ask but the few following favors —

I. That you never write another letter to prove the correctness of your conduct towards me.

II. That you never ask me to sell another map. *To fly from every article of y^r engagement to me* — to take away *y^r weekly allowance* from me, to withhold *every atom of the Book stores* from me, and yet insist that I shou^d go about the world with a 4 wheel^d carriage, two horses, myself & son getting subscriptions for 16 pr cent when the whole world allows 25 pr cent, argues a something for which I have no adequate language — however, it sh^d suggest to you, M^r Carey, this startling thought — that you have treated me so long with injustice & oppression that you can now exact that of me which you w^d abhor to ask of any other human being.

III. That you make me some small allowance, say one dollar pr day for going about to the stores, comparing notes of books, first sent, monies p^d to *you*, to *me* &c &c.

IV. That you let me have back my Life of Washington — or let me have what I may want, giving you a fair premium for y^r trouble & expence of editing them . . .

V. That you cease to speak that Evil of me which I have not deserv^d. M^{rs}. Weems tells me that my Nephew has letters from you which have chang^d his once high opinion of me. . . .

You agree I did good things in Georgia, 1000 Dollars, a month. But what is 1000\$ a month compar^d to what I might have done had I been but properly supported. Yes, Sir, had I but been bravely supplied (from the first of my good remittances to you) with the books I *ask^d* and PRAY^d FOR, Modern Novels, Modern Physic, Modern Law, Bacon's

Abridgm't,¹ Jacob's law, Diction^y,² Modern Equity,³ Reports, Digests, Precedents &c &c instead of 1000 I cou'd have sent you 2000 Doll^s. a month as easily as have sent 1000. My advantage, my Zeal, my Industry, my Temperance, my Address &c &c what cou'd they not have done. I confess that when I think what Great & Golden opportunities have been lost, I feel pain & trouble. However, since Conscience tells me 'twas no fault of mine, I give all those troubles to the *winds*. They are bitter things that *have been*, like the baseless fabric of unpleasant dreams, let them pass away. forever. . . .

As to y^r books in my store, while the British were near this place, they were sent up to Bellair, soon as safe they shall be sent down & invoic^d & pack^d up.

L. & F. Vol. 4.

DUMFRIES Sept. 11, 1813.

SIR . . . I have told you *a thousand times* & have no fear to appear with it in my mouth at the day of Judgment, which you know must be "*a time to try Men's Souls*" that the failure, the *horrible failure* of our most Glorious & Godlike plan was wholly owing to y^r not sending me as was agreed on, small parcels of the *RIGHT Books* And every day — and every day's ride I take over this vastly & widely extended Country brings fresh & mournful proof of it. . . .

You talk of having no *hostile passions against me*. What use was there to say that? How was it possible for you to have *hostile passions* against a Man whom for nearly 3 years out of 5 you have kept doing nothing but go about the Country affecting to sell Books many of which *as I told you from the beginning of this woeful business*, had no better chance to sell than fiddles at a Methodist Meeting house. If either of us had any right to bear hostile passions it was me. But as I said before,

¹ *A New Abridgment of the Law*. By Matthew Bacon, Of the Middle Temple, Esq. . . . Dublin: 1786-1801. NYPL.

² Giles Jacob, 1686-1744. *The law-dictionary: explaining the rise, progress, and present state of the English law*; . . . 1st American edition . . . I. Riley, New-York; and

P. Bryne, Philadelphia, 1811, LC. Also listed in *Carey's Catalogue of Law Books*, July, 1821, LC.

³ *Modern Cases in Law and Equity, in the Courts of King's Bench and Chancery*. Listed in *Carey's Catalogue of Law Books*, July, 1821, LC. The LC. has a London 1730 edition.

I absolve you. I fear not but the same kind Providence which has all along fed me & my family will continue to us the necessary supplies. I count soon to undertake a noble work for myself — And even if I sh^d fail in making as much as I sh^d have made with you had my original plan but been acted on, I shall make it with ten thousand times more of peace & comfort. . . .

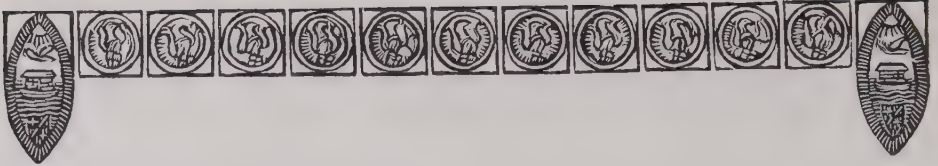
I am writing, at leisure moments, a life of Christ¹ in the manner of Your Life of Washington. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 4.

BALT^o Dec. 4, 1813.

SIR . . . As to the spirit & style of y^r letter, I am truly sorry for it. That a Gentleman sh^d cross me in the most favorite wish of my Soul, and wrong me out of the greatest bargain of my life — 250 beautiful little well assorted ad Captandum book stores — which w^d of all things have gratified my heart, & glorified my name, and made my fortune in the only way I ever wish^d it, that a Gentleman whom I took too to be my fastest friend sh^d have made this contract in the most solemn form of writing, & then have flown from it all, & yet insisted on my going on with a poor small map-subscription business, and on an allowance less than he gives to young striplings — and after all say that this is not ungenerous & unjust, nay can bestow the most indecent epithets on me for complaining! My God what is man when blinded by passion! and what little difference then appears between the Best men & the worst. George Guelp[*b*]s crushing the poor Irish & M. Carey oppressing Parson Weems! Ye beams of the Sun why are ye not asham^d of shining upon such poor creatures as we are! But still Mathew Carey with all thy Cruelty thou cans't not drive friendship from the heart of Parson Weems. He knows no Happiness but that which flows from the fountains of Benevolence and that, he trusts, will roll on, a swelling tide when the streams of thy Delaware shall have pass^d away. I shall set out week after next to see the stores over the mountain if you approve. —

¹ This was never found by me. It is note- *Washington* when presumably he meant his own worthy that Weems speaks of Carey's *Life of* work.



Rien n'y trahit la recherche. . . Et puis rien n'y révèle l'homme de lettres, et cela nous paraît tout à fait délicieux. Car l'homme de lettres a beau être de génie, il est de métier, et son œuvre en garde les façons. — ANATOLE FRANCE.

[TO THOMAS JEFFERSON]

LC.
Jan^y. I, 1814

VERY HONOR^d SIR, I once had the honor to hear your Excellency express much surprise that "*Leonidas*" had never been reprinted in this country. If your Excellency could favor me with a manuscript expression of this sentiment as a motto to a subscription paper I w^d instantly set about reprinting that Divine poem which bids so fair to revive among us the old Spartan Love of Liberty and Country.¹ I feel happy in the thought that in asking this favor I am throwing no obstacle in the way of your Ruling Passion — the Public Good.

If your Excellency could drop me a line at Balt^o. by the 6 or 7th Inst. you w^d add another to the many favors already conferr^d on me. Wishing your Excellency a happy new-year & that you may see thirty more at least and each happier than the past I beg leave to subscribe myself your Excellency's Sincere Friend.

MASON L. WEEMS.

At a banquet, given to celebrate Napoleon's downfall on Jan. 15, 1814. 'A large concourse of gentlemen from different parts of the State and from the District of Columbia having assembled . . . they formed, at noon, at the City Tavern, and marched to St. Anne's Church, headed by a band of music, "Where," says the sympathizing chronicler of the event "the throne of grace was addressed in an appropriate manner by Rev. Mason L. Weems, and an oration pronounced by the Hon. Robert Goodloe Harper. . . ."'

History of Arundel County, Elihu S. Riley, 1905, p. 85, M^DHS. Notice of the meeting was also in *Independent Gazette*, Jan. 22, 1814, M^DSTL.

¹ I have not discovered that Weems ever realized this project.

A similar account, with mention of Rev. Mason L. Weems, may also be found in *The Ancient City, A History of Annapolis, in Maryland 1649-1887*, Elihu S. Riley, Annapolis, 1887, p. 235, LC.

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 7.

DUMFRIES. Feb. 19. — [18]14

SIR, — . . . Mrs. Madison has patronized me in a good work which I am just about to undertake¹ — applications are made to me by numbers to cooperate with them. But my impression is that I can do better by myself. . . .

Best wishes to M^{rs}. C. & family.

L. & F. Vol. 7.

WASHINGTON, March 4, 1814.

SIR — . . . I sold you my Washington, from the prospect then held out of my going into large & lasting business with you. That prospect is now done away. If I had my little book back again, that, with the additions which I can make to it, & my other scribblings w^d support my Family whose circumstances are very little, perhaps not one dollar better than they were when you first engaged me in this disastrous business. Heaven has prosper^d you much, & partly perhaps thro' me who was two years pressing you to the Bible — but be that as it may, Heaven has rais^d you above all necessity of keeping from me my little book, so I hope you will let me have it again on reasonable terms. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 7.

[*N.d. postmarked Mar. 19 1814.*]

I am lost in astonishment, M^r Carey, at your letters. From one, of your mind & moral machinery, what little right had I to expect such letters. You possess great sensibility yourself and yet you write to others as tho they were Blocks & anvils that cared not for any blows that cou'd be laid on them. You say that "*not all the INFERNAL POWERS shall ever force you to acknowledge yourself an Agressor in this affair!!*" . . .

¹ Hunter's *Sacred Biography* (*Bibliography*, title 253).

if my CEASELESS INTREATIES to you for a different management cou'd have prevailed I shou'd not have rank^d next to Citizen Conrad on the list of your Assassins — and that “our *connexion*” would not have been of that “*Infernal*” character you describe it. But I am done — I am done with it forever, if you will but let me alone. As to the past, it cannot be recalled — it cannot be recalled. But in money matters as in morals, future good management may cover a multitude of past sins. As to my Life of Washington, you offer me 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ pr cent. For *cash* if I had it I can get 40 & even 45 pr Cent on books. 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ must therefore seem a scanty allowance indeed. And that you shoud see it in the light nothing more is necessary than that you shoud recall the motives that led me to give it to you. My best friends in Philad^a, Doct^r Collin¹ among the rest, advised me not to sell it to you. And I do solemnly declare to God that I told you, when invited to cooperate with you in that — (since *Infandum*) business, that I believed I cou'd make more by Washington & my other books. Overcome, however by y^r “*Seductive eloquence*,” & my own fond hope that I was going to enter with you into that most delightful of all Employments — 250 Book stores for circulating a world of excellent books for the Public & making a great deal of Comforts for my Family, I say fired with this hope I sold my book to you that it might mix with the common grand Mass. Well now that you have utterly abandon'd that great Object & so have completely cut me out of all my promised pleasures & profits ought you not to return me my little book. Common Justice, certainly says that you ought. I have it from under your own hand that you w^d return it on the expiration of our business. That business you have violently broke off yourself refusing to furnish a single book store which I call God to witness was with me the main motive. So I ask again does not Law, Justice & everything sacred among Civilized men call on you to return me my book. But I am content not to take it back, since you will eternally bore me with having injured you, & I am willing to be of all the help I can to you. I am willing you shou'd keep it & continue to distribute those large quantities which y^r situation & wealth enable you to do, provided while your types are set you will strike off what I may want; and for so doing I will allow you

¹ Probably Nicholas Collin who penned with Weems' *Washington* (*Bibliography, titles one of the commendations so often printed 14 et seq.*).

three times the interest which the Law allows. I have some noble anecdotes to add to it. . . .

This Bible business & Washington may be well worth your attending to. By acting in that style of Honor & Equity which Cato & y^r own Conscience w^d dictate, you will on the latter (Wash.) make double Bank interest on y^r money & do nothing to disturb the repose of a dying hour. For God is my witness that I sold that book under the prospect of going into business with you.

L. & F. Vol. 7.

DUMFRIES, March 25, [1814].

SIR —. ✓. To have held out to me the splendid offer of 250 little book stores of the popular sort, and then not to give me *one*, not a dozen at any rate that I wanted — & gave you to understand what I wanted, and yet to withhold my little book from me, is an act of such a colour that I hope God will give you to see & despise it as you are sometimes wont to do ungenerous & wrong things. As to the offer that I made you about the bible, there was nothing in that to excite such indignation. I did not ask you to put it one cent lower to me than you offer'd. I only ask^d you to give me a subscription paper. And this you give to all y^r Agents. At least I suppose so. You see that Sword & others are printing Bibles,¹ And believe me I have it in my power to make more by a bible than you may suppose. Printers as well as Princes are liable to disasters, and when those, who may aid the long security of their presses or thrones, ask nothing but what is reasonable, I see no reason why they sh^d be treated with anger or contempt.

I only wish you'd think of the 40, or perhaps something less pr Cent on the old books that you have here, & of the 6 & 12 months payment for them.

(turn over)

I shall be at Washington City next week, say the 30 &c. I tell you once for all that I do not wish to be engaged in a bible against you. And

¹ Besides those of T. & J. Swords, many in *America Previous to 1860*, E. B. O'Callaghan, Albany, 1861, 1c.
editions of the Bible in 1814 are listed in *A List of Editions of the Holy Scriptures . . . Printed*

I do not wish to have any trouble with you about my little Book, (Washington). But there is one thing I wish, which is that you w^d confer calmly on this matter, with the two best friends you have in this world, Conscience & M^{rs}. Carey.

L. & F. Vol. 7.

WASHINGTON, March. 31. 1814

SIR Nothing so grieves & surprises me as your letters. I never read them without exclaiming — My God! what a pity that a Gentleman of so many amiable, so many divine qualities should yield to an Irritability that not only obscures the finest mind but betrays the best Heart into acts of such violence & Injustice. You brand me as a perfect Monster for just asking you to let me have *old* books at a disc^t of 40 when I can get the *branding new* & of better sorts at 45. And you rage to think of letting ME have them at 40 when by y^r own permission I might at auction have sold them at anything short of 50 to the Devil himself! And as if this was not bad enough for me you are eternally upbraiding me with having snatch^d yourself & family from the very Zenith of repose & Elegant competence and plunged you into a dark Stygian flood of storms & dangers, from which no Palinurus but God himself cou^d have saved you all. This is so far from being correct, that I call the Omniscient God to witness that you by your own willful mismanagement have fill^d my whole body & soul with labour & sorrow that rather than suffer the same again I w^d gladly drink tuns of the bitterest waters ever yet coveted by miserable Ghosts on the black shores of Styx & Acheron put together. You say a thousand times you “wish to bury all in oblivion” and yet you are forever ripping up the same old, oft refuted & barbarous charges against me. . . .

Tho’ I had been wronged of the *divinest pleasure I ever promis^d myself in this life*, i.e of superintending 250 stores of *little popular useful* books constantly selling & circulating valuable knowledge thro’ this young Country, yet I never upbraided you. Tho’ two whole years, out of our last 5, have been almost entirely lost to me yet I was never the first to upbraid. But when in addition to such disappointment & losses I was loaded with abuse then I was compell^d as I do now to retort & throw the blame where it ought to lie.

And behold here again to climax the matter, you say you gave me 1000\$ for Washington & now "*I am goading you to death to make me a present of it.*" I never ask^d you to make me a *present of it*. How barbarous to sport thus with one's feelings. So far from asking a present I was willing & told you so time after time, to make you a most liberal allowance for y^r trouble in letting me have as many copies as I sh^d want of the work. I dare say you will agree that had it not been for the circumstances of going into *large* business with you 5 years ago I sh^d never have sold the book to you. And you will I know agree also that now that the business is broken off thro y^r *own wish* (I don't say anything worse) you ought to return my little book but not as a *present*, but for 500\$ as you stated in the Articles.

As I have not 500\$ now I am willing you sh^d do all you can with it; & while printing for yourself you will oblige by printing some for me on a liberal allowance to you as aforesaid. . . .

Yrs. &c.

I cannot dismiss the subject of y^r books at this place & Falmouth without expressing my surprise that after having authorized me to auction them at anything below 50 pr ct you should now object to sell^g them at 40 — considering too how long they may lie on hand in Philad^a — especially as they are many of them of old stocks.

Write to me at this place — City of Washington.

[TO WEBSTER & SKINNER¹]

BPL.

DUMFRIES, March 31, 1814

GENTLEMEN, Honest men, "*those noblest works of Gods*" are so rare that it does one's heart good to see them or even to hear of them. Your own conduct in the affair of the 50\$ note sent, by Jacob Johnson of Philad^a, to me as the Author of the little pamphlet "*the Life of Washington*" will serve to show you to whom I allude. The note is receiv^d — with due acknowledgments of esteem &c &c.

¹ The original firm, Charles R. and George Webster, had published two editions of the *Life of Washington*, so-called the third and fourth, probably between 1802 and 1806 (*Bibliography*, titles 7, 9). Though they may have taken up the suggestion contained in Weems' letter herewith, I have never discovered copies of any such editions.

I have lately written & publish^d with great success two or three pamphlets about the size of Washington's life.

- 1 The Drunkards Looking Glass
 - 2 The Gamblers Looking Glass
 - 3^d The Way to get married ¹
 - 4 God's revenge against Murder
- all at 25 Cents each.

The *two last* have gone thro several editions & have sold, each, to the tune of 30 to 40.000.

The two first are but of recent date however have gone, *each*, thro' two editions — and large editions too — and I am now getting Mr. John Bioren of Philad^a to reprint me heavy editions of them both. You may reprint 2.000 of each, if you'll give me 2 cents on every copy. Shou'd you think of it, you w^d find it worth y^r while to get some good Engraver in New York to give you a good Caricature for the first, i.e., the Drunkards Looking Glass. There is an admirable one for the Gamblers look^g Glass, which M. Carey got executed for me. Carey printed me an edition of 4000 the 2^d edition.

I am confident that in reading those pamphlets you w^d agree with thousands in the most hearty wish that they could be put into the hands of all our youth. They are season'd, so Judges say, to the palate of young persons & of the Multitude.

The very laudable spirit which you display^d in the affair of Washington's life is to me a sufficient pledge that you are not capable of abusing my confidence in you, sh^d you reprint the other pamphlets.

Yours, with great esteem

[To MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 7.

DUMFRIES, June 27 1814

DEAR SIR. . . . I regret much that I did not go down to see y^r much esteem^d Daughter the bright eyed Miss Maria. But really it was owing to my apprehensions that she might have gotten *angry* with me because you had been much so in consequence of my not sticking

¹ Probably referring to *Hymen's Recruiting Sergeant*.

to you in the *maps* for y^r deserting me in the Stores. But all that is now but as the cloud of other times. Let it rise no more to darken or chill our Affections. Mine I assure you are & ever shall be very greatly excited when I think of you & *Family*.

As you think much deeper than I do, I wish you w^d sometimes think for me, & advise whether, in event of Peace, I had better stay where I am, or move to Balt^o.

I know that in such friendly cogitations it may [*be*] well to consider my years, somewhere about 55, & my Family, in No. 9. That in y^r retreat in Chestnut street you may find the Otium cum dignitate & more repose than you ever found in Market street is the fervent prayer of D^r Sir —

Yours con amore

L. & F. Vol. 7.

DUMFRIES. July 1st. [18]14.

D^r SIR — . . . I am now parleying with M^r. W^m. Charles ¹ the Caricaturist for the aid of his pencil to render my little Serio comical melo dramatical pamphlets more interesting. He speaks of reference to you as a “*mutual friend*.” If he sh^d call, I trust you’ll give me thro’ him the aid of y^r counsel. I am prodigiously in want of the frontispiece that he is to give me. I tell him that as I have already launched 7 or 8 pamphlets, & 2 books, with several others of various rates on the stocks, all requiring the Squibs & Rockets & Long Toms of his Fancy, if he can but contrive ways & means to mould me them cheap I may throw a good deal of work in his way. I wish you to be so good as to present that idea to

¹ William Charles, a Scot, ‘copper plate engraver, book-seller, publisher and stationer’ of Philadelphia, according to the directory for 1817, was famous for his political caricatures, and for his work for children’s books. See *A History of the Rise and Progress of the Arts of Design in the United States*, by William Dunlap, Boston, 1918, Vol. III, p. 289; *American Engravers Upon Copper and Steel*, by David McNeely Stauffer, Vol. I, Part I, p. 45, and Mantle Fielding’s *Index* to same, p. 81. — ‘To

William Charles the children in the vicinity of Philadelphia were also indebted for the introduction of colored pictures.’ *Forgotten Books of the American Nursery*, Rosalie V. Halsey, pp. 170–171. — Charles evidently made the woodcuts for the 1818 edition of Weems’ *Drunkard’s Looking Glass* (*Bibliography*, title 202). — I have assumed that the frontispiece referred to above was for *God’s Revenge against Adultery* (*Bibliography*, title 210) — see letter of Dec. 28, 1814.

his view. All I want is *strong expression*. I care not how coarse. I have begg^d him to bring his first essay to you to be pack^d in the Bible box & sent to Mr. Brundige to whom I will pay the money the moment they are deliver'd. . . . As I am scientifically an Anatomist Physiologist & all that, I hold myself abundantly qualified to draw up a good treatise on Farriery. At any rate I feel desirous to try my hand especially if you will be so good as to send me, in the Bible box aforesaid, a small tract printed sometime past by Humphries, & which tract Doct Chapman pronounces excellent. I pray you do me that favor. . . . Last night our old friend Brundige was in fine spirits. His son W^m. was married to a Miss Tyler, a delicate little creature with about 5 or 6000 of the Spanish mill^d [*dollars*].

Wishing to hear soon of Henry's Conjugation with some Rosebud in full blooming, with 50, or 60,000 Spanish mill^d & you & M^{rs}. Carey & Maria & all of you happy as happy can be

[To JAMES MADISON]

LC.

DUMFRIES, Octob. 24 — [18]14

MOST HONOR^d SIR. I hope your Excellency will think no apology necessary for the following — When the sacred fire of Liberty burns but on one National Altar in all the Earth, certainly every Soul in that Nation shou'd watch the Holy Spark with more than Vestal solicitude. Let me then tell y^r Excellency my fears. The Dust raised by the flying Militia from Bladensburg has fully satisfied you that but little dependence is to be placed on such Troops. Balt^o. Norfolk & all our young flourishing Towns here in the South are gone if confided to *Militia* protection alone. And as we have scarcely any other force, shoud Gen^l Hill & his myrmidons make the attack at the point of the bayonet, the flames of our towns will but swell the triumph[*b*]s of the Vandal foe unless he can be check^d by some happy stratagem. The Modern Goths, our Enemy, think it no harm to employ rockets, bombs, red hot shot as against M^eDonough, & mines as in the case of the gallant Pike. Why not follow their example? I presume not to advise your Excellency, but as a Hearty Friend, Patriot & Philanthropist I must needs say that were I President & Generallissimo of the Last Republic on Earth, I

w^d turn the whole force of all saving Gunpowder against the Invading Enemy. Tar^d, Canvass hose, or tubes (one inch diameter) made of tar^d canvass filled with gun powder and laid in deep furrows run by a narrow plough — A few thousand yards of this hose laid at convenient distances in the road along which the spoilers of our towns must march, w^d in a moment annihilate their Troops & their Hopes. The thing is most easily practicable. And if ever necessary is so now. My Love for my Country together with friendship for yourself, that as the war was begun so it may be happily terminated under your Consulship, has prevailed on me to make this Communication to your Excellency. I feel a very great hope that your Excellency will give this matter a serious consideration. God Almighty forbid that during your administration those Fair Cities Baltimore, Norfolk & Richmond with all their tender Females & Princely Treasures shou'd be the sport & spoil of a Ruffian British Soldiery. If the elegant Charles Alexander of Alexandria & the Amiable Mrs. Gaston,¹ fell into frenzy & death, the first on seeing the flames of the Capitol, and the latter on *bearing only* that the British were in Newbern, what w^d the consequences [*be*] to helpless thousands were their Cities to be filled with the midnight massacres & spoliations of an overwhelming Enemy?

God help yr Excellency & save our Country, is the Prayer of yr Friend —

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 12.

BALT^o. Dec. 28, [18]14.

D^r. SIR, Inclos^d I send you—200. The note is on a Clergyman who lives in y^r town, the Rev^d. M^r. I. W. Campbell, Bookseller. I want 30 Bibles at 450, the set you intended for me, two sets without numbering on the back, paper somewhat better than y^r 426 No. 38. — I shall leave this Place by the 10th Jan^y. if you can get them here to care of Lucas

¹ Wife of William Gaston, a well-known lawyer of Newbern, N. C.; he represented Newbern frequently in the State House, and in 1813–1817 was a member of the House of Representatives of the National Congress; active politically until late in life; one of the three Chief Justices

of the Supreme Court, serving with Thomas Ruffin and Joseph J. Daniel; died in the Supreme Court, 1844. His second wife was Miss McClure, who died in 1813, and who must have been in Washington with her husband at the time referred to in this letter.

or Cushing you'll oblige. NB I wrote to you 2 or 3 months ago to send me parcels to Virg^a. if you sent *them*, *dont send now*. Did you send the thin red morocco's? if not send me 8 or 10. If you cannot certainly get them here by the 10th. send to Dumfries i.e. if you have not sent as before.

. . . I have seen an extract from your Olive branch¹ — viz. Georgia ver[sus]. Massachusetts. If the rest be equal to that, tis proof that with you as of old "*the best wine has been kept till the last.*" I send you a little affair which I have just got, *rough out of the stock* — hardly worth your reading & M^{rs} Carey's but if I live, I'll put the chizel to it.² . . .

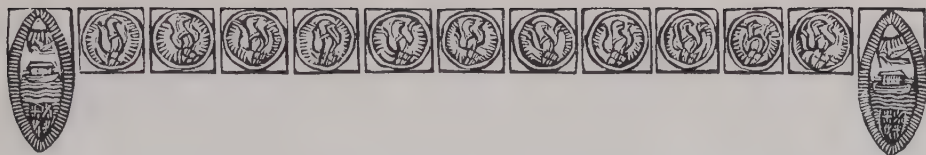
Wishing you all the Joys of the Season extended in *Seculum seculorem*,
I remain yours con spirito

Love to all.

¹ *The Olive Branch; or, Faults on Both Sides, Federal and Democratic.* Anon. Mathew Carey.] Philadelphia: . . . M. Carey, 1814. LC. One of Mathew Carey's most popular and well-known works, widely circulated and often reprinted. Like any influential political pamphlet, it gave rise to frequent discussion in the press and elsewhere.

² Probably *God's Revenge against Adultery, Awfully Exemplified in the following cases of*

American Crim. Con. I. The accomplished Dr. Theodore Wilson, (Delaware,) who for seducing Mrs. Nancy Wiley, had his brains blown out by her husband. II. The elegant James O'Neale, Esq. (North Carolina,) who, for seducing the beautiful Miss Matilda Lestranger, was killed by her brother. By Mason L. Weems, Author of the *Life of Washington*. Baltimore: Printed by Ralph W. Pomeroy & Co., 1815. (*Bibliography*, title 210.)



In the book I found fire and smoke and frequent ups and downs.
— WILLIAM DUKE.

L. & F. Vol. 12.

BALT^o. Jany 10. 1815

Dr SIR — Your two first letters to me at this place, did not come to my sight till a few hours ago, — owing to their having been taken up by Mr Lucas. You know that I have always wish^d universal dissemination to such a book as the “*olive branch*” — and if I had 100 papers I w^d send them to as many friends & Post Masters thro’ the Country where I travel — as also much farther.

As to the money from Edenton, there is probably some misunderstanding in that affair. I can hardly think I did not send it by somebody to you. I know I offer^d it to Mr. Brundige for you. However I sent you 100\$ t’other day. Day after tomorrow I set off for home via Annapolis, and shall soon send you more — perhaps before I get home. At any rate if it was not sent it was owing to your not advising me how to act. Thro’ some carelessness of our good friend Pleasants (now in heaven) a small box of y^r books sent 2 or 3 years ago for New Canton never reach^d place of destination — I found them however this fall. You have credit for them. I mean they are in Dumfries for you — all except the Bibles & some few other books. If *with* the *bibles*, you are going to send me you could send 100 subⁿ. papers for “*Olive Branch*” I will do something for you.

If the bibles can be in Dumfries in 3 weeks from date, twill do. Say 30 bibles @ 450 — 2 plates — yr Bibles No 38 @ 4.²⁵ wou’d do if no number was on the back — 2 plates &c &c.

Send quickly & carefully.

L. & F. Vol. 12.

WASHINGTON Feb. 16. 1815

D^r SIR — . . . I am afraid the Stereotype Bible will hurt you much. I am confident I could be made the Instrument of dissemination for you [*of*] some thousands of copies annually if you w^d but follow my counsel — i.e, Let me give my whole Devotion to that Affair — and you affording me a reasonable profit.

I congratulate you on the return of Peace. Love to Mrs. Carey & Family.

Yours con amicitia

L. & F. Vol. 12.

DUMFRIES. March 7. 1815

Mathew Carey Esq^r of Philad^a the last man on earth whose feelings I wish to pain — even ever so slightly. Let me then never look retrospectively to those things that were, “quoque miserrima vidi — et mortalia pectora tangunt.” I’ve made a covenant with mine eyes never to look towards them — But when you ask me if I could not venture to purchase some of the Life of Washington I answer *yes* — But this drives my thoughts back to the days of old, when from my wish to be totally absorbed in your Grand Business (which promis^d a blessed Result) I agree’d to sell you my little book — and, when from a full recollection of which you lately promis^d with a liberality worthy of yourself, that you w^d let me have what I wanted for my own sales at *12½ pr cent advance on the prime cost* payable say in Philad^a. I am willing to purchase of you in that way. Or, which is better for us both, I am willing to let you have some of my 4th edition of Marion¹ in exchange for Washington. I have actually sold 1500 of Marion in 3 Months for cash. No one book ever pleas^d all, for some you know can’t bear Ossian, Milton or even *the bible*. But Marion, with some Enemies, has a world of Friends and I declare solemnly, and you know that lying is not on the list of my sins, that I have receiv^d some of the highest plaudits for Marion that I ever receiv^d for any book that I had the honor to write. ’Tis expected of you to do great things to disseminate Marion.

¹ Published by M. Carey, Philadelphia, 1816 (*Bibliography, title 88*).

The Author of the Olive branch is hail^d as the staunchest Friend of the last Republic on Earth. The Republic will never have a standing Army. They will depend on the Militia. The Militia when well officer^d & fought are admirable Troops. Marion knew how to fight [*with*] them. Howard, Scott, Lee, Greene,¹ all blow the trumpet & bend the knee to Marion. The 2^d 2 edition is all gone & 3 to 400 of the 3^d 3 exchange^d & the rest nearly or all bespoke & yet without help of plates. This 4th edition will be greatly improv^d. Now if you were to get some good plates for it, and take care to interest some of the Leading officers & Hearty Republicans in it, you might distribute 1000^s of copies and thus in times of Peace spread over our Country the shield of Minerva against a future war. And besides, in a few months you might make Marion & Washington School books throughout the U. States. You promis^d to send me some of my Bibles — 2 plates — cost 450 — no number on the back. I pray you to send me 20 to Dumfries — instantly —

Yours, respectfully,

L. & F. Vol. 12.

DUMFRIES. March 11, — [18]15

DR. SIR — Most heartily do I congratulate you on the return of Peace. Next to thanks so justly due to God the Conservator of the Republic, measures for our own emolument after the nip tides [*sic*] of War must be adopted. I am willing to assist you in your Bibles & Washington. I want my Bible. Old testament, new ditt^o & Apocrypha with 2 plates 450 no number on the back.⁴ I think that y^r Bible with 70 or 80 plates⁵ w^d do well. You have here a good many books. Twas your wish

¹ John E. Howard, Winfield Scott, Henry Lee and General Greene, all officers in the Revolutionary War. Weems cites them more than once as ardent admirers of Marion. (See *Bibliography*, title 86, note 3, and title 88, note 4.)

² 'Printed for the Rev. M. L. Weems, by W. D. Bell & J. F. Cook,' Baltimore, 1814. (*Bibliography*, title 86.)

³ 'Published by the Rev. M. L. Weems. J. Hagerty, Printer.' Baltimore, 1815. (*Bibliography*, title 87.)

⁴ Although it will be noted that Weems,

in his letters, is continually agitating for a Bible of this description, referring to it as 'his' Bible, and even speaking at times as though it were already published, I have never been able to identify it. See article in *Charleston Courier*, Feb. 14, 1822.

⁵ Probably referring to *The Holy Bible: containing the old and new testaments, together with the apocrypha: . . . Seventy Maps and Historical Engravings*. Philadelphia: printed and published by M. Carey, . . . 1816, 4to. NYPL.

that they sh^d be sent back. Tis also my wish. Many of them are the *remnants* of the old adventure in 1809. The best of those sent at that time were drafted to make up the ranks for various expeditions, some few have been sold here — tho' this is a most miserable place for selling books. And as neither the *books* nor the *place* will ever do much in the way of sales I think the sooner they are shipp^d back the better. There is a young man here going to Kentucky on a trading voyage with barrels of Herrings & Shad, with two wagons. I believe him to be safe. At any rate I will be security for him for a few. Also I shall be willing to keep some — *not the lawbooks* — but some others. Suppose I were to buy you out here to the tune of one half that you have, which, all the *Law apart*, may be by guess 800 Dollars payable next Spring what discount will you make me. Like yourself I heartily detest all huckstering, but, for mere Justice, 'twixt man & man 'twere but duty to remind you, that, 1st many of these books, lying here now near 6 years and how long before they came here, unknown, now look like second hand. II. that even new books are now selling slow & low (33 1/3 & 10 pr cent off for cash or 30 days). III. That if there be such a thing as favor in *trade* some of it is due to me who, as you know, *early* objected to the mode of carrying on this business, have had a world of trouble & but small profit in it. However, let all those things go for nothing, and in a short time they will all be as nothing, you have but to tell me in a letter to *Washington*, *immediately*, the lowest you can take for 8, 9, or 1000 Doll^s worth of y^r old stock here. Also let me know when you can get me some Bibles. Can't you send me 12 of my 4.50 sort to Balt^o to Rev^d John Hagerty in [*sic*] by the 21st. & 40 to Virg^a. i.e 12 to Dumfries by the 6th April & 30 to Lynchburg 1st of May, with 10 red Morocco to Lynchburg, you getting them insur^d for me. And write to me about y^r 80 plate Bible I count on doing great things with the Bible & Washington.

L. & F. Vol. 12.

DUMFRIES. March 15, 1815

SIR. I am about a very important matter which I present to you merely for your consideration. We are, both, Circulators of books. I in the minim [*sic*] you in the whale & Craken style. We are well satisfied

with our trade; looking on books as admirable Lights, & Guides, and Helps & so on to everything wise and great and Good among Men. Well, the more of these Lights that we can set ablazing the better. This has ever been our impression; and once or twice we set about acting on it, but we fail^d — In great measure I believe because we did not work the matter right in choosing the books according to the rules of congruities & correspondencies. The thing, however, fail^d and there's an end. But was there not a radical defect in a system requiring books to be left on sale, when even those books, tho' deem^d *congruous* at the time of deposit, were liable to be neglected for others more highly cried up by the ever changing tastes & fashions not to say improvements of the world? But I beg leave now to suggest a plan of great utility to the world & ourselves which in my opinion is not subject to the above or to any other objection but what lies against all transactions with men. Our country is large, and contains thousands of men with much pride & *few pence*. But, it also contains many thousands of Honest and wealthy Yeomen. To find these out, can certainly be no hard matter. To strike them with a strong sense of the *Exceeding importance* of little Libraries of well chosen Books, can also be no very hard matter. Now by carrying to them *Circulars* introductory from Great men (*such as Madison &c. &c. &c. &c.*) and Captandum Prospectus's to produce a healthy appetite and then in the moment of Excitement to flash before them an Elegant Assortment of *Popular books* is there not a moral certainty that ten to twenty thousand Dollars might annually be sold in this way — *on short credit*. If the Vendor were to take the Country before him, from house to house, there is no doubt but he w^d be ruin'^d. But if he were to take an Oath by the Immortals to go to no house but the *Wealthy & Honest, of long standing*, and to take a book of *bonds* ready for *filling up* on 6 or 12 months, there can be no question but he w^d do an immensity of business in a most safe & profitable way. This idea I'm determin'd to act on — with my own little stock at any rate if I can get no one to join me. I have suggested it to none but yourself. In case it shou'd appear to you in the same light of importance [*as*] it does to me, you can, as possessing a better financial head, suggest such amplifications, improvements, &c. &c. Also what part you can afford me of the profits, for my Industry & Zeal. You may rest assured I shall never darken a door but of the

Wealthy & Honest, and always take a *bonded* voucher on 6 or 12 months credit. I shou'd take a couple of strong heavy horses that w^d transport a fine cargo of books — my son, a fine Youth of 16 will go with me — at proper places I w^d, like Bell, formerly, *auction* my books if deem^d proper. I repeat, the contents of my last, that I believe I can do great things for mutual profit, with a Bible wherein you cou'd, as stated in my last, so work the matter with me as to enable me to obviate some of the many drawbacks on a 25 pr cent commission. I suggested a Bible with 4 or 3 plates, one map or the travels of the children of Israel, (Palestine) and the Apocrypha — on as good a paper as possible for 5.00, with disc^t. of 25 pr Cent as usual &c &c. I feel a belief that you can let me have such a Bible to good account to yourself, as I see on y^r printed list the Bible No. 5, Apocrypha & 11 plates at 4.75 ¹ I sh^d want but 4 plates & Apocrypha with *no number* on back.² By dropping 7 plates, & giving a quarter of a dollar more i.e, 5.00 I shou'd suppose you cou'd give a paper that w^d be *altogether decent*. You told me I might get a paper printed at y^r expence. I think I cou'd sell 1000 in a year easily enough. You can write to me ad longum

I want at Petersburg or Lynchburg 20 or 30 Bibles at 4.50, a few Red Morocco 10\$. I cou'd I believe, get many sub^s for y^r 12 Doll 80 plate bible. 4 months ago you promis^d me some bibles. I want to send back the unsaleable books that have been lying here so long.

L. & F. Vol. 12.

[N.d. cover marked Dumfries, 15 March.] [1815.]

SIR — Yours of the 11th is before me. I w^d gladly have taken Washington at 33 1/3 — but to dispose of them, as w^d have been the case, with a

¹ Listed thus in the *Virginia Argus* (Richmond) for Oct. 5, 1811 *et seq.*, vsrL.. Probably referring to: *The Holy Bible: containing the old and new testaments: together with the apocrypha: eleven engravings.* Philadelphia. Mathew Carey. 1813. 4to. NYPL. Contains Fletcher's *The Old and New Testament Dissected* and an article on *Judea*.

² Only one of the numerous suggestions made by Weems to Carey for modifications of the latter's regular editions of the Bible. I have never found that any of these plans were followed. It should be remembered, however, that the varying editions, numbers and prices, wholesale and retail, of this publication make the matter of identification very difficult.

deduction of one 10th or perhaps at times one 8th or 6th with other drawbacks, of boxes, freight, & the Dear knows what beside, w^d as you must well know have fritter^d the thing down to a nullity. I hope this summer or Fall, to get some money to send you to print me 1000. In the mean time if you can send me instantly at the old rates 100 or 200 to Dumfries or Alexand^a to care of M^r. Gray or Stewart, Booksellers you will oblige me. I feel a great wish to assist in the dissemination of a book whose aim is, by discountenancing faction, to immortalize the Liberties of our Country. Please therefore to send me in ex. for Marion, 50 copies *bound* of your "Olive branch" — putting in the box some of y^r latest & best subscription papers — that I may do something towards an ample circulation of the Book. I want to *do a great deal* both for you & myself in the affair of y^r Bible. But I stand in need that you shou^d afford me the aid of y^r counsel & accommodation in this thing. On my own works I got upwards of 100 pr Cent. I can therefore well make 10 or 20 pr Cent disc^t. & pay postages &c &c &c besides. But on a Bible getting but 25 on Commission & 33 1/3 for cash or short credit I can't do anything with it if I give 10 or 15 or 20 pr Cent. Now as you know that a man will take some pains to get sub^s if he is to get one for every 5 or 6, *much more pains* than if he is to get but one for 10 which indeed disheartens many sordid Souls at once, I wish to call forth the best efforts of my numerous acquaintance — to that end must give all the premium I can. You sell y^r Bible No. 38 — old & new Testam^{ts}; Apocrypha & record, at 4.25 allow^g me a com. of 25 pr Cent. Now if you could let me have such a Bible with one map (of Palestine) also the Journeyings of the children of Israel & 2 or 3 of y^r favorite plates, with as good a paper as you could afford, at 5.00 [*for 5.00*]¹ instead of 4.²⁵ I think I could circulate a vast many for you & myself. By putting them at 6.00 I sh^d, besides the 25 pr Cent, get one dollar which w^d enable me, as I said to give a premium that w^d engage a powerful cooperation. This 600\$ Bible — & a 10\$ Red Morocco & y^r 12\$ with 70 or 80 plates, w^d afford matter for great & I doubt not very profitable exertions this summer.

¹ No such edition ever found by me.

*L. & F. Vol. 12.**DUMFRIES* March 18 — [18]15.

SIR, Yesterday I submitted to your consideration the outlines of a plan which is [if] wisely acted on may with utmost certainty eventuate in consequences embracing in an uncommonly high degree both Individual & Public good. I say I submitted this to y^r *consideration* — I wish thereby to be understood that, as correctly as I may think of your friendly or favorable sentiments towards me, I do not *solicit* y^r concurrence in this affair, only as giving you the preference in an enterprise that may prove highly lucrative. Many are they without doubt in my mind, who w^d leap at cooperation with me. indeed a Distinguished House in Maryland offer^d me, a few weeks ago, 2000\$ pr an to cooperate with him. But I love Liberty. And as I feel a wish that our Day of past life darken^d with disaster shou^d in the afternoon be gilded with the Sunbeams of prosperity I determin^d to mention this affair first to you. Besides *Libraries* for Individuals of Wealth & Honesty; *Libraries* for Neighbourhoods & *Auctions*; subscriptions to an immense extent may be push^d. But *I repeat*, I throw it only on y^r *consideration*, & shoud you determine it in the negative it will not create one moments uneasiness to [*sic*] the bosom of Dr Sir

Yours

M. L. WEEMS.

I expect to be in Balt^o. about 3 or 4 weeks. I intreat you to send me to care of Rev^d John Hagerty 20 or 30 of your cheap Bibles *not number^d on the back*; but lettr^d and with 2, 3, or 4 plates My former 4.50 sort w^d please if this could be had. I pray you to send some of your *cheapest* at any rate.

*L. & F. Vol. 12.**[N.d. cover marked Dumfries 4th April] [1815.]*

Dr. SIR, Yours is come to hand. I had hoped that my Nephew had finished everything for you with the Agents, by this time. On the front sheets I have given orders for books from 4 of y^r Agents, and can go on if you think proper with all the rest. But there are some of them,

e.g, Kemper of Madison Co. and Robinson Haymarket¹ who say they have overpaid you, and will no doubt expect reimbursement before they let all go out of their hands. Others have some of my books with yours. Hence I am inclin^d to think that as I shall shortly visit those places myself on other business, I might as well have all these things settled at once, especially as the books remaining with them are not of the character or in the condition to promise a speedy sale in Philad^a. I begun today to pack y^r books to be returned. Is it not y^r wish? As to the Family Bible which is the main thing, you sell No. 38 *with the Apocrypha* for 425. I told you that I w^d give you for it without the Apocrypha, 450, if you w^d give me a *frontispiece to each Testament* & on a somewhat *finer paper*. You agreed to it, and have sent me from time to time. I want 100 more immediately and *without* any no. on the back. You offer me 33 1/3, but as I don't know anything about y^r insurances nor indeed whether you w^d advise to insure along the coast & in this mild season, I w^d rather give you 4 or 5 pr Cent to deliver them say at Petersb^g, Richmond, Fredericksb^g, Dumfries, Georgetown & Balt^o. Let me know & I will at once get out a paper as you told me I might & make efforts to obtain a great many Sub^s. for you.

I set off in a few hours for one or two of the County Courts — hope to be back in 12 days. I wish you to be very speedy in getting me 100 Bibles as above, without numbering on the back — & as fair a paper as you can possibly afford. I shall give you my note as you mention — & will endeavor to make the business profitable to us both.

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DUMFRIES Ap 14 — [18]15.

D^r. SIR — You know I do not put y^r monies to my private uses, I might by such policy have been richer than I am. To my quid nunc on the 24,000\$ which I paid you from the Georg^a sales, you know you added 250\$ — a good proof that I did not even in y^r own opinion touch y^r part. I shall go on to keep a cheerful mind as to y^r share of the Bible

¹ William Robinson, postmaster, Haymarket, Va., Apr. 1, 1806 (first return) — 1812. See *P.O.Rec.Bk.No.1*, pp. 258–259. P.O.Bldg., Washington, D. C.

monies. Please to send me 40 of the 450 Bibles & 10 of the 10 Doll^r red morocco do. to Petersb^g. to care of our friend John Grammar — 20 to Richmond to care of W^m Pritchard — & 20 to Fredericksb^g to Mr. Gray¹ Bookseller & 20 to Alexand^a. to John Gray Bookseller. Please send *instantly* to all these places — but ESPECIALLY to Fredericksb^g & Alexand^a — as I wish to have them on a Journey that I commence as soon as I can get them. Send therefore instantly. I'll send you my note or give to Mr Brundige as you may think proper. I want the Olive branch, for Marion, *bound*. Did I say for 50 Marion? Send them in the boxes for Fredericksb^g & Alexand^a. I am now getting old, with a wife & large family — and as to money have toiled all my life and caught nothing. I believe you feel towards me those sentiments which a good & fortunate man always feels for the Laborious & honest. Six months ago I got out a sub^a paper for Davies's Sermons² the original 63 in 2 Vol^s — but now to be bound in 5 duod[ecim]^{os}. at 5\$. I have a good many sub^s. for it. Mr. Hagerty & other Balt^o. Printers offer to print it for me a[t] the usual price 50 Cents all around and 6 months. But I fear they will be too slow for me. You have strong handed Printers in Philad^a who will be idle this summer. If you can speak of me to them “nothing extenuating nor setting down aught in malice” you will oblige me & perhaps not do them any wrong; for nothing but my death will stop me from paying them as fast as I get the monies on the books. I want but 1,000 copies. For Goldsmith's An[imated]. Nature, the first book I aided you in, I p^d you as you may remember more than 1,000 Doll^s in 10 days from Balt^o. alone. And to diminish the chances against me the Undertaker need send me but 100 or 200 as I remit for them — and his monies will be coming in soon after they are sent. There is a wealthy man in this country, the Atlas of an Academy who wishes to buy 1800 Doll^s worth of books of me; for which he will pay cash 600\$, and as good as cash at 6 & 12 months. As I had rather get the books of you than anybody else, I wish you w^d instantly send me one of y^r best catalogues with *the prices*, to show to him. As I have twice or three times been treated ill by the

¹ ‘Farmers’ Bank. Directors of the Farmers Bank of Virginia, elected in this city, on Monday last. . . . Fredericksburg. . . . John Gray.’ *Virginia Argus* (Richmond), Aug. 6, 1812, AAS.

² *Sermons on Important Subjects; by the*

Late Reverend and Pious Samuel Davies, A.M. Sometime President of the College of New Jersey. In Five Volumes. . . . Baltimore: Printed for Mason L. Weems, By Pomeroy & Toy, 1816. (Bibliography, title 239.)

Postmasters in the price of these pamphlets sent by mail, I wish you w^d pay for it there at the *fountain head*. By all means send it by RETURN OF MAIL. Please Let me know what wou^d be the amount of 1.000 copies Davis in 5 Duod°. Vol. paper & binding like y^r Washington.

Yours con amore

L. & F. Vol. 12.

BALT°. May 18, [18]15.

D^r SIR — Last night I reach^d this place found your box of bibles. Uneducated in a counting room I have heretofore been failing in method, mean to do what I can hereafter to attone for such villainous inaccuracies. So far from wishing to keep your money one moment over the time I wish to pay the instant I get y^r books. For cash, the Bibliopolists here allow me 10 pr cent say 33 1/3, 6 months credit, & 10 pr cent *cash*. Tell me by *return of mail*, if you prefer this & to whom I shall pay the money or remit it to you, *Direct* & I'll do it at once & leave nothing to futurity & fortune. The paper of my [No.?] 18 Bibles¹ is of the same quality with y^r No. 38. I hope in time to work things into a right way. I want 3 Bibles, i.e varieties of — 1st your Bible No 38, *old & New Testament* & Apocrypha without plates you put at 425. Give me the *same bible same paper* &c. &c. with 1 map, of the Journeyings of the Children of Israel & 2 plates first Pharaohs Daughter & little Moses for the old Testam^t frontispiece & the *Nativity* for the *new*. This at 4.50 by the hundred — your Bible No. 33. with Old & New testaments & Apocrypha & concordance & 25 maps & plates² you put at 6.25 — put me the same bible with one map & 5 plates¹ @ 5.50 by the hundred your red morocco Bible, without apocrypha but costly paper at 10\$ — put me this *with Apocrypha* (no concordance) and the same paper of [*as*] y^r 8 dollar bible¹ — I say give me these at 9.00 by the quantity. I may be wrong but I find from your giving 40 or 50 more plates, as in y^r 12 & a half dollar bible with 80 plates for 2 or 3 dollars, that the plates when cut cost you but little. I say on this account I

¹ Never identified by me.

² Perhaps *The Holy Bible: containing the old and new testaments, together with the apocry-*

pha: . . . Brown's Concordance . . . twenty-five engravings. Philadelphia: . . . M. Carey, . . . 1814. NYPL.

have made the above proposal to you. I believe you feel a disposition to do as much for me as for any other. And if you can give me all the necessary aids in those Bibles, of making them as good & cheap as possible, & send^g them to me for 5 *per Cent* for freight & insurance, and 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ off that 5 pr cent to be deducted therefrom — & let me print papers — I may sell you a good many. Let me hear from you instantly as I leave this place in 3 days.

Yours,
Con Spirito

As the Vessels are now running from Alexan^a to Philad^a, I wish y^r immediate orders to send back all y^r books, that I may get the decks clear for the Bible & other little affairs & *Notions* of my own, & some *dry goods*, to go to market — as my family is large & nobody to work for them but, yours

M. L. W.

L. & F. Vol. 12.

BALT^o. May 26 1815

SIR — Yours of the 22. is just come to hand. You know I have ever most mortally hated wrangling. I shall therefore most placidly tell you that it appears to me at least that you are entirely under a mistake in all your charges against me & my Bible. I told you in Philad^a that I wanted a Bible *without* the Apocrypha which costs I find from y^r advertisements 50 cents. This taken from 4.25 the price of y^r N^o 38 brings the Unapocryphal Bible to 3.75. I ask^d you whether you could not give me for 75 cents additional[,] making 4.50[,] a Bible of a *visibly* better paper & 2 plates extra. You told me *you could*. I did not want it to *rate as one of y^r line at all*. Give it to me without numbering, I said, you consented. I saw no harm in it then, I see none now. To make its sale more extensive, I thought I w^d give one copy from every 6, this w^d consume most of the extra profit I counted to make by putting it at 5\$. If I do not think that 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ with a deduction of 5 pr cent allow^d you for transportation, making 28 $\frac{1}{3}$ quite enough for my time & labour and risks of many sorts, & privation of domestic comforts &c. &c. and [I] choose to add about 10 or 12 pr cent & the world is willing to

give it to me for bringing the word of God to their doors & to Families that w^d. not otherwise get it perhaps, where is the harm?

As to Washington I told you that I sold you that merely that I might have no separte interest from yours, with which I was about to couple mine in a grand enterprize & which if commence^d & carried on with the slow & prudent steps I advis^d wou'd have had a very different turn out. After that affair was abandon'd I thought I ought to have an additional allowance on my Washington — you saw it [*as*] reasonable & the thing will e'er long be I trust begun & prosecuted with vigour & success, allowg you the 12½ pr cent you ask^d. You say you wish me well. I have never otherwise than wish^d you well tho' sometimes roughly & perhaps wrongfully treated, or, rather worse *written* to than treated. But these things are all now among the dark clouds of former years that are roll^d away. I purpose to go this fall & winter to South Carolina & Georgia. If you want in 4 months to collect as many thousand dollars, all you have to do is to send on to my directions some 12 or 14 boxes of such books as I can in the course of the summer nominate to you & the thing is done. In 3 hours I set off for Dumfries. Last week you abused me for wanting of you 20 pr cent pr an. for cash in 33 1/3 for your books; and God knows I wanted but 5 pr cent for 6 months. You *will* talk to me about *Punctuality*, tho' you know that you have even p^d me back large monies that I have been in advance for you. And [*I*] now leave with the Rev. John Hagerty 150\$ out of y^r 300 & odd *for you*. In y^r next give me orders to send by the mail at y^r risk as you have always done.
[*Unsigned.*]

[TO DR. JAMES EWELL]

L. & F. Vol. 12.

BALT^o. Jun. 28 — 1815

D^r. SIR, This will be presented to you by my friend, M. Carey Esq^r. to whom I know you will extend your wonted politeness from regard both to him & myself.

M^r. Carey is willing to talk with you on the subject of your Medical Companion. You will probably find your account in granting him a listening ear. I once thought it impossible that I shou'd ever sell my Life of Washington. I sold it, however, to M^r. Carey who has distributed,

probably 4 times as many of that work as I should ever have circulated myself. You feel an equal terror at the thought of parting with a book that you fondly hope will raise you hereafter to the rank of Hipocrates, besides even now putting into your hand the Gold making Secret of the Alchymist. You have had that dream for 7 years. Now were you to follow my past course & present counsel, viz, let Mr Carey have *some interest* in y^r book, for he does not want the copyright, 'tis likely that with his *Capital*, his *Connections* & the unbounded range that these & other advantages give him he w^d easily distribute 5 times as many books, do 5 times as much good to the world, & bring you at least twice as much money as you will ever derive from it in the hobbling way you have heretofore gone on with it. With the best wishes in the world, I remain your

[To MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 12.

DUMFRIES. July 12. 1815.

D^r SIR. With respect to what we were talking about my giving you a deed &c. M^{rs}. Weems, who is very much my Sovereign in money matters, is unwilling to agree to it. The Ladies, you know, are said to be the weaker Vessels, and we must not have such collisions with them as will break the precious porcelain of Peace & Domestic happiness. And I am the less inclin^d to dispute the matter with her as I have so often found dissappointments turn out for my good. But verily, except the single article of my liability to die as you & all men are [*sic*], I don't know that this repugnance of her's can push the matter of our bargain one barley corn from the first ground. My mind is fully and *most immoveably* fix^d to confine its energies to a few *weighty books*; among which for a variety of reasons I w^d place the Bible. But I ought to have two or three varieties as to paper &c. next to the Bible for a moralizing School book I w^d choose y^r Life of Washington, and for the best Politics for this Country, your Olive branch. Now, sir, if you will let me have these books, as you said you w^d (provided *the deed was made*) on a twelve month, I w^d on a *certainty*, provided Life & health were granted, meet the payment to a cent — and I w^d also engage to pay *your part*, i.e. about 70 cents in the dollar, as fast as I got the money on the terms you agreed, of allow^g for monies thus p^d before hand, at the rate of 10 *pr cent* which

is the universal rule among Book sellers. I have written to Col^o. John Taylor¹ of Caroline on the subject I was telling you. He wants 1800 Dollars worth of books, for 600 of which he will pay cash & the 1200 [*in?*] his Book "The Enquiry"² [*sic*] at 300, the subscription price 350. As he has but 400 of this book, as it is a *new book* the Subject, *American Politics*, interesting, and the Author a good deal known as a man of great talents, I suppose you cou'd easily exchange and sell 400 Copies especially at $\frac{1}{2}$ Dollar cheaper than the subscription price. I also thank^d Col^o. Taylor for his present of the *Arator*³ to you. I have some of y^r business & of M^r Waynes also, to wind up in S. C^a. & Georgia. The legislatures will be sitting in Nov. & December & their courts sit a week at a time. I have no doubt I cou'd as I did before the war, sell a 1000\$ a month. At any rate if you w^d allow me as usual 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ on all books of y^r own printing or exchange, & deliver them at Augusta, & Columbia (both accessible by water carriage) for a deduction of 5 pr cent, I w^d take 2 or 3000\$ worth, payable *strictly* in 12 months, but as fast as I got the money, at a discount of 10 pr cent for cash. I am pretty certain I cou'd sell a great many Bibles & school books &c &c. Inform me what are the books you offer^d to give me for Marion & Franklin. As I am now done with my little authorship I mean to set [*in?*] GOOD EARNEST with circulating Books as I told you. And you will find it y^r interest to cooperate with me in the Bibles especially & olive branch & Washington — payable strictly in 12 months, but for saving 10 pr cent, as fast as I get the money.

Your books will come by the first opportunity. In one hour I leave home for 4 weeks.

¹ John Taylor, 1754-1824, eminent statesman, lawyer, a colonel in the Revolution; in the Virginia legislature 1776-1781; Senator, U.S. Congress. An ardent supporter of States Rights. . . . Replied to Adams' *Defence* in his *Inquiry into the principles and policy of the government of the United States*. The *Inquiry* had a wide reading in Virginia and the South and ranked him with Jefferson and Madison as a publicist. Other political works followed.

'In 1803 he published a volume, entitled *Arator*, which was one of the first books on agriculture ever written in this country.' See *A History of Caroline County, Virginia*, Marshall Wingfield, Richmond, 1924, pp. 190-198, LC.

² See note 1. The LC. has a Fredericksburg 1814 edition, published by Green and Cady.

³ See note 1. The LC. has an edition — 'Printed and published by J. M. Carter, Georgetown, Columbia. 1814.'

[TO THOMAS JEFFERSON]

Col. of William K. Bixby, Esq.
 NORTH GARDEN. July 31. [18]15.

SIR, My son Jesse Ewell brings you a copy of the Life of Marion which I pray you to accept. It was written for the Moral & Military services of our Youth among whom it has taken well.

I have a great favor to ask you, viz your assistance in a little book on a Great Man to which I believe you can contribute more than any other gentleman in the U. States. The Great man I allude to is Dr. Franklin. I am impress^d with the belief that no American ever led a life better calculated to do good to our youth than did Dr. Franklin. And yet I have never seen a Life of him that I thought likely to please them. I am trying my hand on this great subject — in the size and shape of a School book only.¹ Shou'd it prosper, as some of my little books have done, it may help to multiply the Virtues of Industry, Sobriety, Frugality, Honesty, Patriotism, Devotion to useful science &c for which Dr Franklin was so illustrious, & which you, better than most men, know to be the only true Gypsum of our young Republican Vine & all its future Interests, & Glories. On this account I am led to hope you will lend me your assistance, which you can do more effectually than any other person now living. You were with Dr Franklin in France, as well as in America, and perhaps in Britain. You have read a thousand Magazines, Museums and other publications perfum^d with praises of him by Rousseau, Voltaire, &c. &c. also enrich^d with Bon Mots, anecdotes, stories &c. &c. all which, if only tolerably “cook^d up,” wou'd make a savoury dish for Juvenile palates. Now all I have to beg of you, Honor^d Sir, is that you w^d be so good as tell me where I may find the best collection of these notices. I have Col^o. Duane's book, but that is only for Adults in Philosophy, Politicks &c. &c. My son, on his way back, tomorrow, will do himself the honor to call on you.

With highest Respect I am, Honor^d Sir, yours,

¹ *The Life of Doctor Benjamin Franklin*, . . . 1815. (*Bibliography, titles 131-147.*)
Written Chiefly by Himself; With a Collection of Though never so popular as his *Lives* of Wash-
his finest Essays, Humorous, Moral, and Literary. ington and Marion, this book was still printing
 . . . By Mason L. Weems . . . Baltimore: in 1876.

1815]

LETTERS

[FROM THOMAS JEFFERSON]

Col. of William K. Bixby, Esq.
MONTICELLO Aug 2 — [18]15.

SIR. I duly recieved your favor by the hands of your son, and with it the life of General Marion, for which be pleased to accept my thanks. I am sorry it is not in my power to assist you with materials for the life of Doct^r. Franklin. I never knew him personally until his arrival from England during the third session of Congress in 1775, and soon after the declaration of Independence he left us for Paris. it was 8 years after this that I met him again in Paris, but he soon after returned to America, and I remained there in his place about half a dozen years. when I returned I past an hour or two with him, while he was confined to his bed by the illness of which he died soon after. so that altho we were engaged in the same line for 14 or 15 years, yet it was so as to have but little personal intercourse. of the incidents of his life therefore I know but little, and that little from hearsay only, as every other person knows it. I recollect nothing within my own knowledge but what the public records & gazettes will furnish with more exactitude than could be stated from a decaying memory. with my regrets at this inability to be useful to you accept the assurances of my esteem & respect.

TH. JEFFERSON

P.S. Should you pass thr'o our neighborhood, I shall be very happy to see you at Monticello. I am generally out on horseback in the forenoon, but in again before the hour of our dinner which is half after three.

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 12.

WASHINGTON CITY. shall be here 14 days.

[Bound before Aug. 31, 1815, postmarked Aug. 24] [1815.]

D^r. SIR, I. D^r Ewell will not sell his Med. Compan. for love or money,
II. Your Books shall come on directly, no use to me.

III. I have given my Nephew written orders to collect, also all the notes of hand, that on D^r Smith near Sparta among the number.

IV. As proof I do not want to defraud you, I have sent you 5 months beforehand from Rev^d. Hagerty Balt^o. 150\$. I now send you 200\$. You said you w^d give me *at the rate of 5 pr cent for 6 months, disc^t. for cash.* [That] is what they all give. 'Tis a bagatelle [to you?], but a bagatelle is a grand chose to me who respire near the natale solum of a beloved wife whose numerous Relatives prodigiously lazy &

convivial are determin^d never to let me grow rich ergo credit me off hand before you forget it. . . . I shall be here 14 days. W^d God you could come down & bring 3 or 4 varieties of Bibles that we may "*doctor up*." as you call^d it, two good sorts of Bibles for my use *exclusively*. Formerly you paid a 1000 expenses, ran a 1000 risks, took back the unsold & the Dear knows what all & allow^d 25 pr Cent. Now only deliver cl[e]ar of *water & fire*, to my friends that I shall name to you and give me 28, only, & I will sell you a Vast many in the year. If you say yes to this, send 20 copies of my 5\$ Bible (charged to me 4.⁵⁰) to James Howlett, Chesterfield County, Virg^a 1 to care of Garey & Cogbill Petersburg.² 40 to Captⁿ. Joseph Yarbrough Double Bridges Lunenburg County Virginia,³ care of John Grammar Petersburg. 40 to Rev^d Mr James Hunt, Campbell County Virg^a 20 to Tho^s Daniel 4 Merch^t. Warren, care of Rob^t Pollard Richmond, & 40 to *me* care of Joseph Christie, Fredericksburg and can't you send me 20, *instantly* to Rev^d Hagerty Balt^o. or me? Wou'd God you had *business* down here, that you cou'd come. I think we cou'd make some grand arrangement, & I w^d give you security. Life is short now & I want to cover it over with Glory.

L. & F. Vol. 12.

WASHINGTON. Aug. 31, 1815.

DR SIR Yours of the 24 is before me. Nothing can be more grateful to my palate than your *Sine qua non*. To be selling books thro' the Country, and those books dragg^d by gall^d horses, craz^d carriages, along

¹ 'Virginia Legislature . . . List of the County and Borough Committees for the ensuing election of Electors — (appointed by the Members of the Virginia Legislature, on the night of the 14th inst.) . . . Chesterfield . . . James Howlett . . .' *Virginia Argus* (Richmond), Feb. 24, 1812, AAS.

² *Ad.* 'Dissolution. . . .' Of the firm of Garys & Hart, formerly Thomas E. & Henry Gary & Samuel Hart, and its continuance under the name of Thomas E. Gary & Co., *Grocery. Petersburg Intelligencer* (Virginia), Feb. 3, 1807, AAS. Cogbill a prominent name in Methodist Church. — Cogbill & Garey mentioned in *The Story of a Church, A History of Washington Street*

Church . . . at Petersburg, Virginia, 1773-1923. P. H. Drewry, B.A., Petersburg, 1923, p. 201, 1c. — Edward H. Cogbill served in the War of 1812. See *Historical Collections of Virginia*: Henry Howe, Charleston, S. C., 1845, p. 246, 1c.

³ Joseph Yarbrough, postmaster, Double Bridge, Va., Oct. 1, 1807 (first return) — 1820+. See *P.O. Rec. Bk. No. 1*, p. 152. P.O. Bldg., Washington, D. C.

⁴ Possibly referred to in the following: 'To the Public.' A long article signed, 'Mr. Thomas Daniell, Silversmith and Jeweler . . .' *Virginia Gazette & Agricultural Repository* (Dumfries, Va.), June 14, 1792, AAS.

bad roads, Jew Publicans & the Lord knows what, and all for 20 or 25 pr Cent when for cash a man may get books at 40 pr cent discount & on good security, at 33 $\frac{1}{3}$, is a losing game. And yet, to my infandum doloreum, I have been playing it all my life, even here to my 56 [*th*] year. After such heavy costs & sore losses, but little gain^d and all to be paid for, no wonder I have sped so poorly. 'Tis time in all conscience to come about & get upon another tack. That tack is the very one you point out. I am well content to join in it — to have no accounts — no cash dunning letters to write, no selfish Agents to abuse — but simply to know how much is due & when it is to be paid — thats the meum & tuum of the right stamp & I am ready to give it the right hand of a hearty welcome. Little Traders have better memories than the big, a gnat is a Camel to them. On small orders of 100 Bibles or, so 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ at 6 months was the credit. But at Balt°. you said if I w^d take up to the score of 1000 or so you w^d give me 12 months. I am content to take even more than that. And if we cou'd but have an interview I think we might assuredly come to some arrangement highly profitable to us both. On my part there is a call for exertion for I find that the Commission business of past life has been but a poor thing to me compar^d to what I now see I may do for a very amiable wife & children whom I wish to leave in comfort. On your part there is much less of such stimulus as just cited. But still, having a family, & a great deal of money vested in your Bible, and many Bible printing Competitors you must wish to have a good share of the business. I say I wish we cou'd have a meeting, much comfort & mutual good might result. I wrote to you about it before. It is a most horrible affliction to me that your books are not sent [*back?*] — and sent, as I often begg^d you, a *long long time ago*, for believe me they are exceedingly in my way. And what will you think of my interest in retaining them, when I tell you that a whole week sometimes passes, without selling one dollar, tho' I have a good many books of my own in the store. They are, I have no doubt, on the way now. You ask me whether I have kept an a/c of sales in Dumfries. There has [*sic*], but I believe partially & imperfectly. But still, no matter for that. Here was my way & as good a one for managing that affair. When it was agreed in 1811 or 12, after my paying you 24.000 Dolls, the papers shou'd be burnt on both sides, "*old things done away*

“*all things begun of a new,*” then I had, for *3 several times*, for accuracy’s sake, a list taken of your books in Dumfries. I have the amount, for all deficiencies I am responsible, and cheerfully, for my remittances since that time, — and the Books on hand will, I believe, pretty nearly square — for the books here had been on hand a long time & 50 times cull^d for the stores elsewhere.

As to my exchanges of y^r Bibles in Balt^o. you have heard from those Gentlemen, only what they wish^d to operate in their favor. Tis true I did exchange some 10 or a doz. And did they tell you that I w^d not let them have one of my 5 Doll^r Bibles lower than 6 dollars. I told them, and they *cannot but know it*, that my subⁿ price was 5.00 — but as it was a Family Bible they must give me 6.00 in their best books for it: which they did. Several told me that you exchange y^r Bible.

I want to see you, greatly, because of your Doctor^s me up 2 or 3 varieties of y^r Bible to which I mean to turn much of my labours & attention during the rest of my life.

Best wishes to M^{rs}. C. Miss C. H[*enry*]. & all the family —

I shall want a great many of Washington.

L. & F. Vol. 12.

WASHINGTON Sep. 11. 1815

D^r. SIR From your silence to my letters — I begin to fear that the Autumnal Azote [*sic*] has found you out. I pray not. . . .

I had a grand plan to set before you if we cou’d have had a meeting & all in a way of perfect security to you. But whether we have a meeting or not I wish the above 130 Bibles by the last of Octob. at Petersburg. I gave you the address for the first mention^d 50 in my letter 2 weeks ago. I wish you to look at it. As to the Security for this 130 I will give it you if you choose to Mr. Brundige before the Bibles are shipp^d . . . It might be pro bono privato & publico if we cou’d have a meeting.

L. & F. Vol. 12.

DUMFRIES. Sep. 21. 1815

SIR . . . I have told you that I was willing, to make an arrangement with you on a large scale & on the very terms (i.e ample Security) you

desire, but I can *bear nothing* from you about it. I tell you again I am as far from wishing to get your Bibles without giving you Security as you can be to let them go. I can get Bibles elsewhere, but I feel no thoughts yet awhile of getting from any but yourself, provided the attention (of answering my letters and of getting the Bibles ready,) which you extend to ordinary strangers be extended to me.

[FROM CAREY]

L. & F.

Sept. 25 [1815.]

. . . The plan I have laid down for you is the only one on which I will ever do any business with you. We are both old & I am determined our heirs shall have as little trouble as possible with our affairs. Heavens knows we ourselves have had enough.

To save reference to former letters I now repeat the plan for you.

Let me have a mortgage on good substantial property for 1000 or 1250 Dollars payable in 12, 15 or 18 months. Will then furnish you with Bibles, to that am^t. from the proceeds of which & your other [*works?*] your future orders to be accompanied with cash to the am^t. Thus we shall have no accounts for heirs to settle.

L. & F. Vol. 12.

DUMFRIES. Sep. 27, 1815

Dr SIR Inclos^d is the copy of Security of the Mess^{rs} Dolls,¹ Little York, by the Rev^d Mr. Armstrong¹ a wealthy & pious Episcopalian of that town. I hope you keep good minutes of all the monies due to me from all the Gentlemen to whom I carried your Books. — My part on many of them must be considerable, such as Mr Devereux Milledgville, Doct^r. Owens² Lynchburg, Gamble, Starnes & the Dear knows who else besides.

Two large boxes of Books are on their way to you. All the rest that are here will be sent by the next boat that goes to Alexand^a. which will be in 5 days.

Shall thank you to give my respects to my Nephew, if he be with

¹ The following may apply: 'List of Letters Remaining in the Postoffice on the first day of April 1812 . . . John Armstrong. . . John M'Connel & Martin Doll . . . York, April 1, 1812,' *York Recorder*, Apr. 18, 1812 [AAS.], and 'Joseph Doll elected an Asst. Burgess for Harrisburgh on Monday last.' *Farmers Instructor & Harrisburg Courant*, May 5, 1802, PSL.

² See *Addenda*.

you, & tell him I shall be glad to see him on his way back. I had been making preparations to embark largely with you, & in the sure card game that you are fond of, but your long inattention to my letters confounds me.

L. & F. Vol. 12.

DUMFRIES, Sep. 28. 1815

SIR: . . . As to the Life of Washington I shall want a great many. Also the Olive branch ought to be so moulded as to get into the schools. Or if that cannot be done, you w^d deserve well of the Republic if you could draw up a good popular little work for that use, showing the blessings of our free institutions & their unalterable value — thus rousing the spirit to preserve them & shewing how it is to be done. You ought now to take a little more rest than formerly. Your mind for the “otium cum dignitate” w^d catch a more than wonted vigour — then with your warm Hibernian sensibility to the charms of Liberty, its cheeringness to the Heart of man, & its tendency to aggrandize the character & condition of Nations, with the aid of the Franklean Library, you w^d produce a book for the schools, “*which friends might praise & prudent foes forbear*” Put my cheap Bibles in bond.

[FROM CAREY]

L. & F.

Oct. 2^d 1815.

. . . Our whole intercourse (except the first instance of Goldsmith) has been one tissue of misery & misfortune to me. It brought me more than once to the jaws of perdition. And by all my hopes of happiness here & hereafter it has caused me more distress & (except the case of Conrad) more loss than I have suffered by all the rest of mankind together. And but for the [*illegible, investment?*] I laid out for you in the beginning of our engagement, 1808, 9 or 10, I should never have lost one half of what I did by Conrad. The utter failure of your expedition forced me to use his endorsements, & thus I was of course obliged to lend him since.

L. & F. Vol. 12.

DUMFRIES, Octob. 3^d [18]15.

D^r SIR — . . . My Life of Franklin is finished, about 265 pages. I am confident you will prefer it to any Biography of his of that size that

you have seen. If you choose to send me 20 or 30 copies of y^r Olive Branch I will exchange Franklin with you. John Hagerty Baltimore will send you Franklin. I intreat you to get me out the no. of copies I desir^d for Petersburg, &c. as I directed in two former letters — there shall be no difficulty about the Security when I come on to you.

Much Health

[FROM CAREY]

L. & F.

Oct. 24 [1815.]

. . . I am inexpressibly astonished you cannot be prevailed upon to send my B[oo]ks back.

For the love of heaven do not tantalize me any longer.

L. & F. Vol. 12.

[Philadelphia, n.d. after Oct. 3, 1815.]

DEAR SIR, Your deep rooted contempt of everything dishonest & base has ever rendered you the object of my highest esteem. And tho you have often and very bitterly reproach^d me for disasters which I ever have & ever shall contend had their origin in your own impetuous & imprudent management of things, yet rarely have I felt any sentiment towards you than that of the highest esteem as *above express^d*. Then “Te Deum laudamus,” fills all my soul to think that we are approaching the happy moment when we are to do business, on, I trust, a *large scale* both of private & public utility, without any more chance of confusion, vexation, embarrassment, disappointment & any other Devilment whatever. The holy calm which surrounds that *happy moment*, when two men who esteem each other for their Honest and Industrious virtues, are about to do business to [*their*] mutual comfort, shou^d certainly be approach^d with all the cautious stillness wherewith a love sick virgin wou^d approach the sleeping youth she idolized. And Heaven witnesses such is the frame [*of mind?*] in which I wou^d approach it — even with the *utmost tenderness of all past recollections* that might be painful. God knows that after having, twice or three times stated to you the clearest & plainest reasons in the world that much of the blame laid on me for past misfortunes ought to have been laid elsewhere, I was very willing

never to all Eternity, to think of it again. And you also repeatedly declared to me in y^r letters that it was equally abominable to your own feelings & shou'd again never be talk^d of. But yet in your very last letter to me, you ripp^d up much of the old budget again — and because I had just said that I hoped in the returns of books & monies all along made from Devereux, Owens, Starnes, Gamble, &c. &c. &c. &c. you had with your usual generosity, kept a memorandum of what was due to me, you shook the old Hornet's nest again & keeping your regards a little too much perhaps on the side of *your own losses* exclaim^d “*Lord God, what is man!*”

Now my D^r & Worthy Friend, for the last time read on while with only two or three dashes of the pen I exhibit a miniature of all the past — Twenty years ago you found me *very poor*, but thinking me honest you gave me employment e.g. Goldsmith's An[imated] Nature. Your allowance was *most liberal*. And had I but understood business I might have laid the foundation of wealth, but by imprudently throwing away *one half* of my profits on my *Agents*, and making dishonest People my *Debtors* for the other half, I saved nothing — tho' in one week I remember to have had the very great pleasure of sending you from Balt^o alone \$1200.

Well, after this when I was commencing with Wayne, the Biography of Washington you invited me to run therewith the sales of y^r books. Your wages again were very liberal. And had I but had the choice of the right books, great good to us both might have resulted. But paying me the undue compliment to think I cou'd vend anything & everything, you gave me an Assortment that dragg^d so sadly that after 6 short months, you took that away. Well, in 1809 you started the last grand undertaking, 250 small ad captand[um]. Bookstores. I never think of this without Heart sadness, as at the remembrance of the fairest opportunity of doing good to you, to the Public, & to myself both in fame & fortune for wide dissemination of Science & Morals. All, All, All, of which might, as easily as I coud kiss my hand, have been realized coud I but have been permitted to visit, beforehand, the contemplated districts & feel the pulse of Politics, Law, Religion, and Geographies, Arithmetics, &c. &c. &c. But unfortunately for us all, they were sent mostly at random, some good, some indifferent, some bad & very bad.

Thus, so help me God I believe, a plan which rightly manag^d wou^d have gloriously succeeded with a capital of only 6.000 Dollars, failed with a capital of 60.000! Now tho' this was one of the most grievous of all the disappointments I ever met with in my life — tho', to give greater *smoothness* & *facility* to this favorite undertaking, I sold you my Life of Washington (which if properly acted on w^d have been revenue enough to my poor family) — tho' for the same reason, I went and bought in *most evil hour*, a house in Dumfries, which, thro' M^{rs}. Weems' impolitic tho' most amiable generosity to her many & lazy country Relatives, has ever since kept me [*poor?*] tho' very great has been my loss of time, & labours & troubles of a thousand sorts in travelling & distributing, and managing the sales of so many books, most of them of the unsaleable & therefore to us both the unproductive kind, yet have I *never* NEVER thought of mentioning these things to you except when you have compell^d me to it. And now I heartily pray you to understand that I mention it at this time that you may not come to this final settlement of all the *unpleasant* past under wrong impressions as if you were the only sorrowful & unfortunate Person. Let me conclude with this fact well known to you above all men. After near 15 years of self starving & laborious life in y^r service, during which, thro' my own hands & those of good men I have employ^d for you, I have sent you at least a Hundred thousand Dollars, I am now worth about 5 or 4.000. And yet never have I thought hard of you for this, or utter^d a complaint save when thousands of dollars worth of *books bespoken* were not sent me, and I was made the subject of unkind animadversion. But thank God, all that is past. And now I am ready to commence, as on a *new*, business on a large scale, simple in its structure, safe as to its foundation, and I pray God highly pleasant & profitable in its results. I'll be with you at 7 o'clock this evening.

Your friend

L. & F. Vol. 12.

BALT^o. Dec. 7, 1815.

DEAR SIR — I arriv^d here last night — Fully expected to see my Son, but from the sudden mortality of one of his horses, as M^{rs}. Weems informs me, am disappointed.

As to the *safe* and *sure* *play* scheme I just hinted to you t'other day, as I was about to leave you, it remains for me only to say that I am at times fully persuaded that from twenty to Fifty thousand Dollars may be made by it annually counting from the end of the first six months. A man of my Zeal, and a man of your Resources for the Bible, Life of Washington, Olive branch and two or three other Popular National Books, amongst eight millions of People rapidly multiplying, what may not be done? — I say what may not be done, if the measures be Judiciously plann^d & vigorously and steadily acted on? You regretted that I had not propos^d it earlier, or wou'd not wait a day longer. We need not be sorry, for you have had & still may have time to view this affair in all its Extent of most Important consequences. Nothing can be wanting but Prudence & Vigour & Steadiness to insure a Glorious Result. And if you will pay the expence of my running up & back again, which on the steamboat is a mere nothing to you, I will come on *instantly* & give a whole day to the full and complete digestion & maturation of this grand undertaking. And if it shou'd not at last please you to agree to it, be assured it will not much grieve me, who always am fond of believing that God will do what is best.

Yours, aff.

Write by return of mail.

[FROM CAREY]

L. & F.

Dec. 15 1815.

. . . I feel deeply solicitous about the Olive Branch. I hope you will use your endeavours to dispose of them at Annapolis, before you open the subscription for the other edition. I consider my character as implicated in this business. And I would rather burn the copies than have a door open to censure me.

L. & F. Vol. 12.

BALT^o. Dec. 11, 1815

Dr SIR . . . It may be well to give some Compt^s. from M. Carey to the Master of the line of conveyance to pay a little attention of the *particular sort* to the Holy flotilla. I wish that you cou'd throw a dozen of y^r Washington into the Bible boxes. . . . Those you gave me were

thro' my usual Incogitancy put into the box for Alexandria, & now as I go around subscriptioneering I am every hour call^d on for Washington.

Wou'd it not be well to be looking around you for fit *designs* &c &c &c for y^r 3 Doll edition of Washington? 2 or 3 ad Captandum engravings ought to be exhibited with the prospectus.

Hasten on the Bibles

God bless you

The plates which you gave me for Franklin as also 400 of the impression are in the smallest of the two little trunklike boxes lying at M^r Biorens, if you cou'd desire one of y^r Aids to step down & draw the nail of the hasp & get out 50 of the plates, & send in the *Bible box, to me*, you w^d greatly oblige y^rs

M. L. WEEMS.

for the faster I can get money, the faster I shall send to you. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 12.

BALT^o. Dec. 13, 1815

D^r. SIR. . . . I INTREAT you to send me 100 to 200 of the plates of Franklin. They are in one of the *trunklike* boxes (2 of which I have lying at Citizen Bioren's) Shoud they be gone M^r. W^m. Woodward [*for Woodhouse?*¹] has a plate of Franklin of which I am certain he w^d let you strike 3 or 400 impressions. Please observe the more money that I can get here the more *I can send you*. If it be possible send me all of pictures of Franklin i,e 400 — & keep the plate for your own work. 40 or 50 of the Elegant Morocco Bible I think w^d sell here. Put into the box some of your show bills for Olive Branch &c. &c.

God bless you. I have got upwards of 600\$ subscrib^d here in these 5 days. Hurry on — I intreat you to do something for me about *Franklin's plates*.

¹ William Woodhouse, binder and book-LL.D., in *Trans&ColAAS.*, Vol. VI, p. 238; also seller of Philadelphia. See *The History of McCulloch's Additions to ibid.* in *ProcAAS.*, *Printing in America*, by Isaiah Thomas, New Series, Vol. XXXI, 1922, p. 106.

*L. & F. Vol. 12.**BALT^o. Dec. 16. 1815*

Dr SIR I have just been down to Col^o M^cDonald, the owner of this and of the Union line, I believe, who tells me that no Goods will be received *for this Season* by the Line Agent in Philad^a. If so I shou^d be infinitely glad to hear from you how we are to get our Bibles down. I have promis^d them about *Christmass holy days*. I know your good Judgment in these matters & shall be glad of y^r advice. Have you started them? And are you *very certain* that they are not only receiv^d by the Line in Philad^a but also started to Frenchtown Dont you think I shall want 50 Red Morocco 15\$ Bibles at least as I have already between 30 & 40 subscrib^d for. I have also 50 Wash. 50 Franklin & some Marion, & some Med. Companion & other things to a 100 Doll^s more, subscrib^d for. When I began to subscriptioneer, which was merely because my son had not come for me, I was in fear I sh^d get no encouragement, this town having been, as I suppos^d overrun with all manner of subscriptions. But, thank God, in 7 days I have got upwards of 700\$ subscrib^d for. Had I better come to York & Lancaster & there meet the Bibles from Philad^a. Now in the Session of the Legislature I might, perhaps, do something. Or can you send them by waggon? Or had I better send my little stage for them? I shall want, I suppose 50 Red Morocco — 1 plain d^o at 12 — 2 or 3 Doway — & 100 Washington. How infinitely shall I thank you to let me know what you have done about the Franklin's likeness at Biorens so often mention^d to you but never notic^d. Yours, with usual respect

As these Bibles are beautiful w^d it not be well to wrap each in a paper, & far better show a blue paper? Sh^d like to have all my pictures of Franklin & the plate, if you can get them. Woodhouse has, he told me, a fine likeness of F. with the plate. If Bioren has sent my plate away w^d it not be well to get Woodhouse's.

turn

I want to be getting those Bibles that I may send you some money directly. Don't omit sending me 100 Washington. Bioren has 50 or 60 in the large old box he was to send on for me to Alexand^a. If not gone, they can be had from him.

L. & F. Vol. 12.

[*Baltimore?*] [*N.d. after Dec. 16, 1815.*]

Dr. SIR — Somewhat unwell, this evening, & fond of the fireside I can't come to see you. I pray you not to forget the importance [of] disseminating the Olive branch *now*, during "the accepted time." Castlereagh may soon be done with the *Parlez-vous*;¹ and then like the Angel with all his vials of wrath "*woe, woe, woe, to the Inhabitants of America.*" A subⁿ. paper in your short & strong way will do wonders. Your memory is great, if you know of any book containing *noble* sayings of our gallant Patriots in their last moments, as that of Lawrence "Don't give up the Ship"—and the Hero in the Cockpit, as he was near dying, snatching the stump of his shatter^d arm from the Surgeon & waving it in a hurra to answer the shouts of victory on deck—please send me such a book. *Que le bon Dieu vous rende* [*sic*] *la vie tres longue, tres heureuse & tres utile* — Votre ami

L. & F. Vol. 12.

BALT^o. Dec. [18?] 1815

Dr. SIR — . . . As to the Olive branch I have not been able to procure a single subscription yet. They say that the "*War is now over*" &c. &c. 'Tis true I have been so attentive to the Bible & my own little Books, that I have not applied to many, but be assured I will from this hour give attention to it. . . . How shamefully I am losing my time, in thus going about in one small street of a single town, when by dashing thro' two or three States in a rapid gidd, putting papers into the hands of Gentlemen of the first Wealth & Character in the Nation, I cou'd have, in 3 to 6 months, 2 to 300 of the ablest & fittest men on the Continent cooperating with me in this great business, and preventing the ground from being seized by the Stereotype Gentlemen of N. York. My son is not yet come. . . .

Remember, Yrs

M. L. WEEMS.

¹ Lord Castlereagh and the Treaty of Berlin.

*L. & F. Vol. 12.**BALT^o. WEEKLY REGISTER OFFICE Dec. 23. 1815*

D^r. SIR — I am now where you desir^d me to call — Mr. Niles out — am waiting for him — In the Interim inform you that I have taken about 800 Doll^s for the Bible, making upwards of 50 Copies of the 15\$ Bible — near 300 for Washington. Franklin & Marion. 100\$ for other things of my own — This in 12 days & in a place which is tired out with Subscriptioneerers. . . .

I have rec'd the box of y^r Bibles. But have not open^d it yet, not wishing to touch it untill I have pretty well gone thro' the town with the subscription. It is impress^d on my mind that we are both liable to err. I am open to conviction & therefore feel to the quick when you tell me that I am mad, for wasting my time on such trash as 25 cent pamphlets when I ought to be rolling a flood of Folios before me. So now for you to keep me confined to a single town, shut up in a dirty narrow street all day getting a few subscribers, when I might with a rapid gig & horse, in 4 or 5 months have subscription papers in the hands of the First rate Gentlemen of the Country sufficient to insure 30 or 40,000 Doll^s in one year after that said time. Besides what might be done with Washington, &c. &c. &c. You are not aware of the serious state of things. I had it yesterday from good authority that there are now in existence at least three sets of the stereotype plates if not 4 sets, one of which was lately offer^d for sale here at a cheap rate, and some talk among the Book-sellers of taking it. I don't ask you to engage me in the way we mention^d at the moment I left you, at least I am perfectly indifferent about it, being persuaded I cou'd make, perhaps, more by myself & to myself, provided you wd adopt immediately some liberal plan whereby we might preoccupy the Territory. M^r. N. is come in. He says he is willing to take 50 of the Olive branch & leave it to you & himself to settle it in futuro. I will try the 19 at Annapolis whither I shall go in a few [days?] *I pray you to attend to my Bibles, without a moment's loss of time.* If you can send me 24 of y^r Bible No. I. which I understood to be at 3.50 I can get from a M^r Cook here 2⁷⁵ cash for them. I leave it to you to assign my part in the profits.

I pray you to revolve on the madness of attacking little Mackrel Smacks when a fleet of East India men are in view. Que le bon Dieu vous benisse.

L. & F. Vol. 12.

BALT^o. Dec. 28. 1815.

D^r. SIR . . . How long shall I be in making perfect thro' disappointment & suffering Were I wealthy like you, I sh^d not mind it but my family is large & altogether dependent for daily bread on my daily exertions. At Annapolis, Fredtown, York, & Lancaster I might make a good deal for you & my family too. At Rich. *but little*. The papers for the Olive branch can be sent to my friends 5 weeks hence. In 5 weeks I may, if you will but aid me gallantly with books, be done with Balt^o & all the aforesaid places, & then return fresh & clear for the Olive branch. I intreat you disappoint me not. I wish you cou'd put blue paper around each of those Elegant Bibles. Attend to the aforesaid trio of requests and oblige,

M. L. WEEMS.

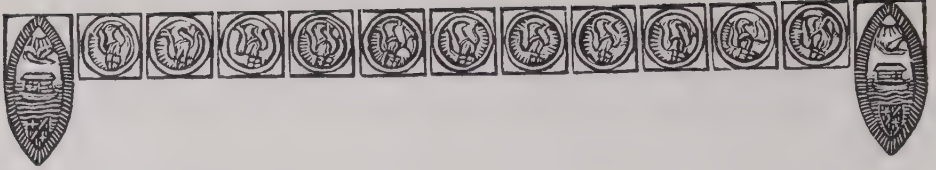
L. & F. Vol. 12.

BALT^o. Dec. 28. 1815

D^r. SIR. . . . The people are many of them impatient, and indeed one threaten^d he w^d not take his Bible, unless deliv^d at *New Year*. Pray send on 30 or 40 if you can't send more. Can you send on the ballance of the pictures of Franklin, or must I pay 20 Doll^s (*inconvenient at this time!*) for a new plate. O that you cou'd send me the rest of the pictures, also the *plate* itself with the next box of Bibles!!

Yours aff.

Pray attend to an old friend. I have good prospects if you can but support me with books.



This love of life was so strong in him that he could lose himself in little diversions as well as in big books. He was fond of everything human and natural, everything that had colour and character, and no gaiety, no sense of comedy, was ever more easily kindled by contact. When he was not surrounded by great pleasures he could find his account in small ones. — CHARACTERIZATION OF JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

L. & F. Vol. 16.
BALT^o Jan^y. 2, [18]16

DEAR SIR. Yours of the 30^h ult^o. is arriv^d

You will herewith receive	\$200
I sent you — three days ago	<u>40</u>
	\$240

I wonder how you can begin a letter “Dear Sir,” writing as you did under the impression that you had sent me 50 Bibles at 15\$, when in good Christian truth you have sent me but 20 — and 3, which were sent in the box to Mr. Hagerty with the 7 of No. 46 I wd you c^d keep better count and not suspect me of holding back your money. I have now besides the 20 already deliver^d, about 50 more engag^d, & not a *single* book to give my sub^s who are, some of them, expecting their Books. I got a letter from Mr^{rs}. Weems stating a doleful want of money and believe me I have no way to raise it but by the *sales* of my books. I pray you therefore to send them on, as soon as possible.

Say 50 Red Morocco^a @ 15\$
2 — 70 plates — plain 12
10 no 46 with 25 plates
24 no 1 no plates @ 350, for Mr. Cook
2, to 300 Washington. 2 Doway Bibles.

You never gave me a subⁿ paper for the 15\$ Bible — I wish you to send me some in the box, if you have time — also send me in the box the *plate* of Franklin. You need not be afraid about your monies. . . .

Infinitely w^d I thank you if you w^d ask Henry to give me in y^r next letter the amount, in figures only, of the books sent to me to *Dumfries* in 1812, &c after I left you.

If you cou'd make haste & send me the Books, to distribute here, I w^d hasten to the other places, York, &c &c &c. No doubt wagons are coming from you every day to Balt^o. Will send the other 50 *tomorrow*.

L. & F. Vol. 16.

[*Baltimore*? Jan^y 4, 1816.

D^r. SIR — Owing to the difficulty of gett^g change for some of your Bible money, I sent you yesterday but 150. I now send 50. For your Bible & my *own notions* I have in rather less than 4 weeks, gotten 1950 Doll^s subscrib^d, and in this subscription haunted town where really I sh^d not have attempted it, had I not been confin^d here by the non arrival of my Son. I receiv^d 14 sub^s to day for the 15 Dollar Bible, besides an order for a large Dutch Bible with *plates* & clasps. I have been buying up all y^r. Life of Washington that I can find here. I pray you have the Red Morocco Bibles elegantly done. I shall want 80 here — 1 Dutch d^o 2 Doway — 24 No 1, 3.50, — 200 Washington. But you are losing a great deal by not setting me out altogether on the Bible Business. Counting from the expiration of the first 6 months I think, were my plan acted on, I coud in 12 months raise you 40,000 Dollars. Did I not from Feby or March 1810 to June 1811 raise you 24,000 Dollars in Georgia &c from miscellaneous sales You w^d do well to turn this thing in y^r mind. You will have a formidable opposition shortly. I pray you let me know when I may *to a certainty* expect the Bibles.

What I want will make 1000 for a wagon & a loaded wagon will bring merchandize at less than 5 pr cent. But be infinitely careful *about the covering*. Give each bible wrapp^d in blue paper, it forms a good ground for the flashy Morocco. I wish you w^d instantly give me orders to finish Washington. It cries aloud for 60 or 70 pages more, for it is much clamour^d against as far too small for a dollar book. Ramsay's is nearly *twice the size*, & better plates, & yet Cushing says he prints

it for 40 cents. Yours may in a short time be made exceedingly more popular & useful, were you & I both to set about it. . . .

If you have not sent my pictures of Franklin, you can easily send them by some of y^r numerous friends coming on to Balt^o.

L. & F. Vol. 16.

BALT^o. Jan^y 6. 1816

D^r SIR — Among several Sub^s today is one who wants his in *plain calf* — I find it all important that we sh^d follow the instructions of our patrons — Pray give orders for the copy in Russia Leather & elegant. Also be careful to send 2 Doways & 1 large Dutch Bible with plates & clasps; I shou^d rejoice above measure if in y^r. numerous letters to me you w^d tell me whether the Books mention^d to you be [*are*] to be had. For lack of this information I am ever uneasy. I've been several times to the stage office but no Franklin portraits. I am griev^d that your gift of Franklin to me sh^d have cost you so dear, all owing to my want of thought. Some of the Publishers here offer to assist me with the 15\$ Bible. One, indeed sub^d for 9 Copies, begs a paper — Cou^d we have a prospectus in a bold type, whole sheet, and in a Flashy, Dashy style as, —

PUBLISHING

M. CAREYS

GRAND FAMILY BIBLE

Contain^s

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Old Testam ^t | 4. Records for Mar[riage]. |
| 2. Apocryp ^a | 5. Fletch ^{rs} Defence With other |
| 3. New Testm ^t | Valuable Improvements. |

Illustrated by 70 Scripture Prints
& Price 15 Dolls.

Sub^s. names,

Resid.

N^o. Cop^s.

It w^d have an admirable effect, Mankind love to be startled. And if we can do it for their good, so much the better. A few of y^r best Engravings w^d aid prodigiously. Considering the opposition soon to be made, everything ad captand. sh^d be adopted. Your friends coming cou'd easily bring me 5 or 6 of those Prospect the rest might be sent with the boxes. Or M^r. Hagerty here w^d knock it off for you for a bagatelle. Let me know. Please send me a Spartan Manual.¹

L. & F. Vol. 16.

BALT^o. Jan^y 7 [18]16.

DR. SIR. From an experiment of the new sort made to day I am inclin^d to hope that I may vend a *great many* Bibles of the non-descript species — i. e. *two plates* sine Apocry. & good paper. I earnestly intreat you to hurry me on, in the festina lente way, 100 copies. *Your part* shall not be forgotten *in due season*.

I am call^d on for Doway Bibles of the cheap sort — & 2 or 3 large Dutch Bibles.

I pray you to be attentive to me and I shall not be unmindful of you. . . .

I think you had *much better* let me have my Bible papers of all sorts struck off here. I believe you always meant that you w^d furnish me the papers and the rather as I am about now to quit almost every thing for that.

L. & F. Vol. 16.

BALT^o. Jan^y 8, 1816

DR. SIR — Cold as the day has been, I dash^d out, and got 20 Sub^s, to the 5\$ Bible. From this experiment I think it by no means extravagant that all Balt^o &c. &c. will afford 100 Sub^s. But, to be on the safe side, say 50. I wish therefore that you w^d instantly order, (by way

¹ *The Spartan Manual, or Tablet of Morality: ters of Antiquity; . . . [Joseph Ritson] London: Being A genuine Collection of the Apophthegms, Printed for C. Dilly, in the Poultry, Maxims, and Precepts, of the Philosophers, M.DCC.LXXXV. 1c. Heroes, and other great and celebrated Charac-*

of having them in time) 50 Copies. You authoriz^d me to PROMISE 2 Historical Engravgs. I pray you let me *be as good as my word*. You are very tender in these things. I wish to be so too. Give me two hist. engravgs — say Pharoah's Daughter & the flight into Egypt or the Annunciation. The boxes are about 1/8 of an inch too shallow, hence the tops of the books are rubb^d. 'Tis melancholy, to see 4 out of the 30 coarse bibles mortally wounded by large nails.

. . . Fear^s that you don't, amidst the multitude & magnitude of y^r other engagements, give my little affairs a 2^d read^s I have thoughts of throw^s all my future letters in the mode follow^s — of this —

I — 50 Bibles (propria Weems) to be put in hand.

II 2 *Historical* Engravgs in ditto —

III Box 1/8 of an inch deeper.

IV *Parcite ferro* — take care of nail^s.

5. Notice of Doway Bib. Dutch d^o.

6. Bible N^o 46, with 25 histor. Engravings

7. Washington — Franklin's pictures &c &c . . .

L. & F. Vol. 16.

BALT^o. — [*Jan.*] 11 — 1816.

O Vanitas Vanitatum That a Gentleman of your Craken character, & capable of plunging half way to the centre in bold search of the deepest truths, shoud leave that useful region & thus Dolphin like skim the surface in chace of a poor flying fish conceit!! “You are a plain man & wont have y^r proposals stuck up in beer houses & grog pips.” If our blessed Saviour who certainly was a very plain man, had been so fastidious as to leave the poor Beer house & grog pip Gentry to themselves what w^d have become of those miserable grog blossom^d & Carbuncled Devils

But so far from such daintiness he preferr^d the company of such deteriorated People & associated rather with the Publicans than the Pharisees, with the real Sinners than the pretended Saints. Indeed these were the People he came after. “I came not to call the Righteous but Sinners to repentance.” And accordingly we see him constantly push-

ing his *sacred person* where you seem afraid to let Demy & [torn] paste board go. However, I will not multiply unnecessary arguments. I have always found that one word could do more with you than Volumes with the Generality. St Paul thought it his duty to become all things that he might win Sinners from the error of their ways. I pray you give me orders to send the Gospel among Sinners. They may receive it in all its beatifying effects. And the blessings of drunken, cursing & fighting Husbands Wives & Children, may ascend to Heaven & brighten your crown among the Celestial Inhabitants. This moment I got y^r. letter & tho' it is now snow^g this moment, I dash to get sub^a. —

L. & F. Vol. 16.

[*N.d. postmarked Balt^o Jany — 12*][1816.]

SIR — . . . As to “*ceasing to get subscribers here in Balt^o!!!*” God knows that if I were easily moved by those causes of disgust that you are so constantly throwing in my way, I should cease subscriptioneering for you entirely. One day I mustn't carry the Bible among the Poor People of the Grog shops. No, they must drink & starve their families, & poison themselves and go to H—ll in their own way — the next day I must not push the Bible among the Rich Book Sellers, Cushing,¹ Lucas,² Vance,³ Coalf⁴ &c. — some of whom to my certain knowledge, before I came to Balt^o. had ordered Bibles from Collins. Well since it will please you that I sh^d continue to creep about among the woods & mountains, where my profits scarcely pay for feeding the live horses & skinning the dead ones, I will perhaps agree to it the moment you send me the Books already engaged here & in the neighbourhood. viz — 40 Red Mor^o. Bibles — 100 of the *propria Weemsibus* — 3 Doways — 2 German

¹ ‘Cushing, Joseph, bookseller, 6 N. Howard st. dwel. Baltimore st. extended, near Green st. W. P.’ *Baltimore Directory*, 1814, LC.

² ‘Lucas, Fielding, jr. bookseller and stationer, 138 Baltimore st’ *Baltimore Directory*, 1814, LC.

³ ‘Vance, John and Thomas, booksellers, 178 Balt. st’ *Baltimore Directory*, 1814, LC.

⁴ ‘Coale, Edward J. bookseller, 176 Baltimore st’ *Baltimore Directory*, 1814, LC. — ‘Balti-

more, January 3. Total amount of Flour inspected in the city of Baltimore, for the last year, ending 31st December, 1803. . . . Edward J. Cole, Register of the City of Baltimore.’ *Petersburg Intelligencer* (Virginia), Jan. 10, 1804, AAS. Edw. J. Coale, was vice consul of Russia, and became vice consul of Brazil in 1824. See *Annals of Baltimore*, Thomas W. Griffith, Baltimore, 1833, LC.

with clasps & cuts — 300 Washington & cuts of Franklin, & 2 of 70 plates — *plain*. I intreat you most PATHETICALLY, to keep in mind that of the last yellow Bibles some of them were on paper so irregular in appearance as to put me on the shakes whenever the poor people to whom I offer^d. one as a sample, began to turn it over. . . .

turn turn

I pray you hurry on the yellow Bibles as I have a great many engaged, & now look^d for, & 6 of the 6.25 Bibles. I am afraid you lose my letters, as, to the Olive Branch, I am so taken up with y^r Bible I have done nothing yet, but will tell you more.

L. & F. Vol. 16.

BALT^o. Jan^y 19, 1816

DR. SIR. . . . The People will have it that the War is now over, Party conflicts done away, & with them no farther call for the Olive branch, hence but little can be done *here*, but I hope a good deal may be done in the Country by & by. . . .

If you would give me a light gig & horse — for after all my labours I do not find I can give myself one yet, and let me do nothing but subscriptioneer for the *Grand Bible*. I might do a great deal for you in the course of 5 years.

L. & F. Vol. 16.

BALT^o. February 2^d [18]16

SIR. I am just from Annapolis — the *deserted village*. Thank God, got between 2 & 300 dolls. sub^d. I am unfortunate — 6 weeks have been begging for Washington, for the 12 doll^r 70 plate Bible, for Doway ditt^o, Dutch ditt^o — and none come nor coming — . . .

In the absence of y^r Bibles I am selling a parcel of Collins that I found here with some good Quakers who could not sell them. . . .

Tell [*me*] when you mean to begin the elegant *edition of Washington* at 4 Dolls — What subjects you mean to select for prints. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 16.BALT^o. Feb^y 3, 1816

D^r SIR — . . . Books not yet come — I pray you, don't forget SMALL MEN. . . .

Think of the Elegant edition of y^r Washington — Instead of 12 plates at 60\$ get 8 plates @ 100 or 125 & set me to work without loss of time. It will be fine employment to run Washington & the 15 & 20\$ Bibles this spring & summer. I pray you again dont forget small people lest you forget

M. L. WEEMS.

L. & F. Vol. 16.BALT^o. Feb. 8, 1816

SIR — . . . But I have drawbacks. *Several bibles injur'd* by the vile NAILS!!!! — and the small Bibles (4.50) PRESS'^d as if they had been under some Atheistical screw that w^d squeeze them to death. But I write in no hope that these things will ever be corrected. For before you can pass the necessary orders, your attention will be call^d off to something that will cause you to forget it; and the poor bibles will again come squeez^d into pancakes or bored & gouged with spike nails. Nails one or two sizes smaller w^d do much better. And if you cou'd desire the workmen to give me boxes made of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch poplar in place of pine I sh'd like it well. The Washingtons too are some of them squee^h into the size of spell^g books — & some cut & pared to the quick i,e to the *letters*. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 16.BALT^o. Feby 8, 1816

D^r SIR. . . . As to the Dutch Bible, I pray you to tell me by return of mail what it contains besides the Old & New Testaments, for I want to sketch a Prospectus that I may sell a good many for you. I am almost afraid to walk [*the*] streets I am so scolded & even abused for not deliver^g the 12 dollar 70 plate Bible. To save you the trouble of reading a 2^d time my letters & wishes I have for a dozen letters pass^d epitomized them thus,

Send —

I. so & so

II. so & so

III. so & so. but *you* wont honor them with your notice. . . .

Another bible struck thro' with nails today. O that the use of Gimblets & short nails was known in your store! . . .

L. & F. Vol. 16.

BALT^o, Feb. 14, 1816

SIR . . . The world is pleas^d to say I have a nack at gett^g. sub^a. If it be so [I] may do a great deal for you in y^r bible, provided you will but see to the *Binders*, that the books answer the expectations of the Subscribers which you know are always very high. There is an infinite difference between a man running red hot to a store to buy a bible, and another getting a bible on subscription to which he had been overpersuaded & had blam^d himself afterwards. The eagerness of the one makes him overlook scars & patches — The peevishness of the other makes him boggle & find fault.

Now as I am y^r Agent in this Bible business our interests are common and therefore you can't injure me without proportionably injuring yourself. To my certain knowledge many families pinch themselves for the sake of getting as they say "A COMPLETE BIBLE." And they cou'd better bear a patch or scar or scratch on fifty other books or on all other books than on the BIBLE for which they are giving FIFTEEN DOLLARS. Wou'd it not be well to have your Bibles, not only the 15\$ but the 5\$ also paper^d at the Binders? The rough handling of the wheelbarrow boys is most formidable to my thoughts. The Washingtons you sent me were miserably bound. I have thoughts of printing the 4th edition of Marion with some improvements¹ by the South Carolina Members in Congress. I wish you w^d take 1000 of it for Washington in sheets, or bound. As I w^d never have parted with Wash. but from expectation of that Grand Book Crusade of ours which has long been knock[*ed*] on the head, I hope you will exchange with me as you do with others. I verily believe that you might sell 5000 copies. . . .

[*Unsigned.*]

¹ No such changes ever found by me.

*L. & F. Vol. 16.*BALT^o. Feb. 14. 1816

SIR, . . . I w^d I were a little wealthier, were it only that I might stand a better chance for your attention. There are [*torn, still so?*] many scars, patches, cracks scratches & other *eyesores* on the Bibles that I am sometimes obliged, after lugging my Bibles $\frac{1}{2}$ a Mile, to go back for another, and after all what with the roughness of the *edges* & the blackness on the back of the plates from the ink coming off, the sub^r. takes the book, but grumbles out an oath that he will never subscribe again as long as he lives. The Bible is a favorite Book with the World & where they give as high as 15 Doll^s they expect a Bible *smooth, fair, & spotless* as a young Bride. The coarse 5.⁰⁰ Bibles are *miserably patch^d* so that in several instances I have been asham^d to present them. The binding of Washington is also dreadfully faulted. . . .

*L. & F. Vol. 16.*BALT^o. Feb. 15, 1816

DR. SIR — . . . There are two things on which I wish most seriously to talk with you. 1st. the Engrav^{gs}. Historical Engravings are excellently calculated for the Good of Children. They excite a vehement desire to read the passage illustrated by the picture. And by doing this from picture to picture, and with that lively interest which accompanies Juvenile curiosity, young People are apt to acquire both a knowledge & a veneration for the Holy Scriptures that may do Immortal Service. But this cannot be said of the little maps that are strewn with so liberal a hand throughout the large Bibles. I w^d therefore most earnestly advise you to drop all the maps but that of Palestine & the neighbouring Countries — & the travels of the Apostles. You w^d do so much more good to the Rising Generation.

2^d. I wish you to give *Me* a 7 Dollar Bible of *my own* with the above two maps, perhaps the Journeyings of the Israelites may be added to this & the former — but with the 7 Dollar Bible give 22 historical engravings. You now charge 6.25 I charge 6.50; The odd half dollar on each will enable me to give (as I now do for the 4.⁵⁰ Bible) one for every 6 Sub^s. thus I have obtain^d for you, from 2 persons only, 25 to 30

Sub^s. And if the Concordance could be dropp^d out of the 20\$ Bible & the price put to me at 19\$ it w^d be a good thing for them. I cou'd put it at a copy for every 6, & by getting me a handsome gigg I might do great things for you . . .

My sales here will be about 200 Eleg ^t Bibl ^s . —..	3.000
200 Smaller Bible —.....	1,000
Wash. Frank. Marion Looking Glasses &c. &c.....	1.000
. . .	

L. & F. Vol. 16.

BALT^o. Feb. 18, 1816

SIR — . . . Have now about 4000 Doll^s sub^d to Bibles & my *own notions*. . . . I w^d God you w^d but *cook me up* (as you once said) a Bible with Apocrypha & only 20 plates¹ — as good a paper as you can for 6.25, which you now charge for Bible with 25 plates. The added 75 cents, for I w^d put it at 700, w^d enable me to give one for 4 or 5 Sub^s, run all risks, pay all expences — & yet do great good in the Country & support my family besides. . . .

& suppose too that I give 12½ pr cent for getting sub^s and say five pr cent for *fires* (think of *Petersburg & Augusta*) and five pr cent for bad debts — & I get only 33 1/3 allow^d by you on the Bibles — at which end of the horn must I come out? Thus I have for

various expenses — only —	6
Commissions —	12
<i>fire</i> , bad debts &[c?] <i>only</i>	8
	<u>26</u>

What can I ever make to defray carriages, taverns, turnpikes, ferries, washerwomen, shoe blacks, Barbers &c. &c. NO.

But you need no more arguments on so plain a subject. . . .

I pray you cook my Bibles for us.

¹ Never identified by me.

L. & F.

[Richmond received Feb. 19, 1816.]

. . . The designs I sent you for the Drunkards Looking Glass,¹ are well calculated to sell that work most rapidly. That which marks the combustion of Peter & John Hays, whose case the Tract Societies have so widely diffus^d ² is admirably done. Have you put them into hands yet. I am prodigiously afraid you will neglect these things.

L. & F. Vol. 16.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27, 1816.

DR. SIR I am beginning now to feel some of the ill effects that I dreaded when Engravings of a handsome sort sh^d be run against us. But I feel also that we can't combine everything, great numbers & fine finishings too. The young Gentleman of Collins, mention^d in my last, as getting sub^a. here, is making a noise about his *finer plates*. And some almost laugh at me about mine. But this only makes me more ingenious & eloquent. And, yesterday, to my own astonishment, I obtain^d no fewer than 480 Doll^s by subscription. There is one plate in y^{rs} — the baptism of Christ by John, which I wish you cou^d have soften^d & dulcified a little — And you w^d find an infinite advantage in giving a plate of the holy Virgin & Child, which Collins has very Judiciously

¹ Judging by Weems' letters and by newspaper advertisements, there was undoubtedly an earlier edition of this pamphlet than the first issue seen by me, which is as follows: *The Drunkard's Looking-Glass. Reflecting a Faithful Likeness of the Drunkard, in Sundry very interesting Attitudes; with Lively Representations of the Many Strange Capers which he cuts at different Stages of his Disease; As first, When he has only "A Drop in his Eye," Second, When he is "Half Shaved," Third, when he is getting "A little on the Staggers or so," And fourth and fifth, and so on, till he is "Quite Capsized," or, "Snug under the Table with the Dogs," and can "Stick to the Floor without holding on."* By M. L. Weems, author of the Life of Washington, &c. Second Edition, Greatly Improved. (Price Twenty-five cents.) 1813. The designs alluded to in

the above letter may cover the frontispiece (unsigned) of the third edition, 1814, of a woman with a bottle, labelled 'Gin,' and a glass, with an inscription above, 'Half Shav'd!! "A drop of the Real for them that loves a dram!"', and below, "'Och the sweet crature! if I could but always get a drop of you, my honey, I should live forever!'"'; or they might apply to those in the 1818 edition. (*Bibliography, titles 197-202.*)

² Included in the earliest editions seen by me of the *Drunkard's Looking Glass*. The first separate issue of this tract which I have found is called a *Narrative of Peter and John Hay* and was published in Philadelphia in 1816 (*Bibliography, title 206*), but to judge by the above letter, Weems may have taken the material for this part of his work from an earlier tract.

done, from an original, I think of Reubens or Raphael, tho' not positive which. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 16.

WASHINGTON March 4, 1816

SIR. . . . As Mr. Collins will, perhaps, have his bibles here about the same time i.e, a little before the rising of Congress, I know you will not disappoint me. Remember the *middle* of April is the time. I was counting as a delightful certainty on seeing my Family who idolize me as I do them, but falling in with Mr. Collins Agent I determin^d to divide the business with him before I went down. And behold I am just assur^d that the Harrisburg Legislature will rise on Monday the 11th, thus after 4 months absence & coming within 35 miles of home I must in a few hours set off without seeing Persons so dear to me. You may see from this that I am now resolved to make a good use of the 10 or 15 years that may yet be allow^d me. And also that you will not allow the *Binders* to give me any unnecessary vexation of *patch^d* & *scratch^d* books. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 16.

CARLISLE. Ap. 9, 1816.

D^r. SIR. . . . He [*Jesse Ewell Weems*] bro^t back [*from the southern counties*] 500 Dollars. I look on this after much gratitude to Preserving Heaven, as a good proof that he may be a tolerable lamplighter of the muses by & bye. His mother has taken from him a good part of it to pay her debts as she says & to buy corn, flour, sugar &c &c for the Family. But I have written to him to pay to Mr. Brundige 200 Dollars for you. I do this because my young son knows nothing about folding up money in letters. And also as it will cost you nothing to write to Mr. Brundige whose long friendship for you will make him glad to oblige you. Pray write immediately, for Jesse may lose his money which I intend for you. I expect to be in Balt^o, unless you order otherwise, in 10 days or 12 . . . I intreat you therefore to have the books, 35 Morocco^s, 2 or 3 plain calf, 4 sheep, 100 of the 2 plate 450^s. all directed to Loves Book Sellers — No. 26 Market Street, Baltimore. 50 Washington, 4 Doways, & some Dutch [*Bibles*].

I pray you to be getting in readiness all my books for all my Sub^s.

I shall want many Dutch Bibles with plates. I say again, if consistent with honor & right don't send any Agents on this my track untill my distribution is over for I want now to set in & raise all the money I can for you — . . . turn turn

Jesse has got near 100 of my cheap 2 plate Bible, subscrib^d for near Richmond — Please send them on immediately as he will go back directly to deliver them. Send 50 Washington with them.

L. & F. Vol. 16.

WASHINGTON, May 2. 1816.

Dr. SIR. I. As to Mr. Tanners plates, do as you like with all my heart — But as they are well calculated to strike the Wealthy and Patriotic & to keep up the rage for the Navy, it might be worth while to *try them*. Especially at 20 or 22 Dollars, which I believe they will fetch in Virg^a. Last Fall he sent me a box to Richmond — that I feel bound to push off — and that perhaps will serve for experiment.

II. As to Mr. Dobson. Let him ly over untill his work be at least half finish^d, or perhaps finish^d in toto. But as 20 Dollars for each sub^a will be our reward, I think it may be worth shewing as Opportunity serves, a copy of the Specimen which he gave me.

III. You say you have no objection to my doing something for Melish if it interfere not with “*y^r own business.*” I have no idea, of pushing this or anything else but as *your* own business.

IV. As to the Cacoethesis for snapping at *every thing*; — However infected with it formerly, I am cured of it now. I shall undertake nothing but with y^r approbation.

V. I am oblig^d to you for your friendly sentiment, when you saw [*say*] my fresh ruddy fac^d boy, that his mother so long pinch^d of the comforts of life sh^d have my “*share of the proceeds.*” But I shall not abuse that right. After one or two debts more [*are*] paid, your monies shall be regularly remitted even beyond your share, as indeed is *now* the case.

VI. I paid \$72.00 to Mr. Vance. also

VII. Communicated to Cushing, Lucas, Warner,¹ &c as you desired. I got about 30 more Sub^a in Balt^o. for the 5, & 15\$ Bibles. When shall

¹ Perhaps of the firm of Warner & Hanna. Books. William Warner, . . .’ *Baltimore Whig*, Oct. 28, 1813, AAS. — ‘A fresh supply

they be distributed? Had not Jesse better attend to this 3 or 4 weeks hence? The sub^s are anxious to get them. These bibles greatly injur^d by the old cause—hasty & violent driving of the nails, and those as usual too large. . . . Our paper is often found fault with, as also the plates, as both Coarse, I mean by the Rich and Tasty who say often that [*they*] w^d not in such a Book (the Bible) stand on a few dollars to have one really elegant. . . .

Dont lose a moment. You may pay a great deal of my wages by giving me full supplies of the pamphlets & Marion. The 4 pamphlets sh^d go *together*. I wish you cou^d make some arrangement by diminish^g my profits on the pamphlets, Franklin & Marion to raise that on Washington. No person w^d sell for less than 10 pr cent & that w^d absorb all my profit.

L. & F. Vol. 16.

[*N.d. after May 2, 1816.*]

DEAR SIR — I send you a stout bundle of Proposals, & shew bills, to be kept for my return. But I tremble for their state. Unless you instantly order a little box & unhearse them, & write thereon *hic jacet* &c for M. L. Weems I shall, on my return, no more find them amidst the Babel of your vast variety store, than a gold cup in the vortex of Maelstrom. . . .

I pray you do this, & drive me not mad any more. It is *infinitely* well worth y^r while to write to M^r. Cox, of Burlington, on the noble Fruit book he has so long & so ably prepar^d.¹ The blessings of thousands of little children feasting on sweet wholesome dulce acid fruits — as also the myriads of Adults sav^d by y^r giv^g them good substitutes to cursed Tear brain whiskey — & then thousands of money for yourself — for *the Book will take* & besides you need not print but on the sure card way of supplying subscribers obtain^d by y^r old friend

M. L. W.

Write to Cox or I shall be hurt.

of the above Medicines . . . for Sale by William Warner . . . *Ibid.*, Nov. 16, 1813, AAS.

¹ *A View of the Cultivation of Fruit Trees, and the Management of Orchards and Cider . . . Native*

and Foreign Apples, Pears, Peaches, Plums, and Cherries, Cultivated in the Middle States of America . . . by William Coxe, Esq., . . . Philadelphia: Published by M. Carey and Son. Nov. 1, 1817. (*Bibliography, title 252.*)

L. & F. Vol. 17.

WASHINGTON, May 24. 1816.

Dr. SIR — . . . For heaven's sake, never again send two kinds of binding. The time lost is incalculable. Like Girls changing ribbons the sub^s. are for whole hours in agony of suspense labouring for choice — and dissatisfied after all, running after me again the next day to bring them "*the other sort of binding.*"

From numerous experiments that I have made, I am pretty confident that you may raise a great deal of my salary from the Pamphlets. An ad Captandum show bill, such as I gave you — with all the plates arranged in striking order on the top — a couple of these with 2, 3 or more dozens of each of the pamphlets sent to at least 100 of y^r Book-sellg Friends. By sticking them up at the taverns along the roads I have sold them off, frequently, with great success. One tavern keeper sold me 3 parcels. Preachers & Parents will recommend. Wyeth had 50 of Mary Finley alone & he p^d me for all t'other day, and is raging to get 50 to 100 of each. I have certificates of the most complete Cures wrought by a single peep at the Drunkards Looking Glass. And if my correspondents keep going on at this rate I shall be obliged to come out presently in the Katiefelto¹ style and publish what wonders I am doing among the Swine. With y^r resources you cou'd have them all out in 10 days, lathering away among the Gamblers, Drunkards, Adulterers, & Sinners at a most heroic rate. Mess^{rs}. Law, Herbert, Key² and thousands of great men every where, tell me that you can't multiply too many copies of these books, which they say, form the most successful mode of attacking those vices (among our Youth) which by swallowing up National Morals will assuredly swallow up National Liberty. The Subjects & Titles are all important and Interesting — and if we cou'd

¹ In Cowper's *The Task*, Book IV, The Winter Evening, line 86: "And Katerfelto, with his hair on end At his own wonders, wondering for his bread." *Familiar Quotations*, John Bartlett, Boston, 1922, p. 420. — 'A famous professor of legerdemain, at the time of writing this poem in the height of his reputation.' *The Works of William Cowper, with a Life and Notes*, John S. Memes, LL.D., Edin-

burgh, MDCCCXXXV, Vol. III, p. 238, *f.n.* 1c.

² Philip Key, of St. Mary's Co., Md., 1750-1820; served in State House of Representatives; representative from Maryland in Second Congress, 1791-1793. See *The Political Register and Congressional Directory . . . of the United States of America, 1776-1878*, compiled by Ben. Perley Poore, Boston, 1878, 1c.

but get (for subsequent impressions corrected) good Caricatures there is no doubt, with the advantages you possess, you cou'd distribute myriads annually to great profit. Bioren has some of the plates (in the Adulterers pamphlet) that are good I mean *fresh*. Wou'd it not be well to have it cut *over* again? or send to Mr. Pomroy¹ Balt^o to hurry that on by *my order*, by some person in the steam boat. I shall stay in Dumfries only 5 or 6 days — tho' I have been absent 6 months — & have *one* of the most affectionate families on earth. I count in all the villages that I visit hereafter to select some Great man (such there always are) who will present my books for me. I have a notion that I shall unquestionably succeed in this. Or in case you do not like this, wou'd it not be well for me [*to*] get a handsome gegg and let Jesse *follow* and distribute? In the Southern States this winter choice books assorted sent in flat cases will do admirably at the Court houses. But here in the Industrious & wealthy Penn^a, I think that dashing among the villagers & Preachers & Elders, in a handsome rapid gegg will do best. Write to me to Dumfries.

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WASHINGTON, May 28. 1816

Dr SIR. . . . The truth is my fort lies in getting Sub^a, and I must get some good substitutes, in Jesse & the Clergy, to distribute which no doubt will answer well [*torn*] proper arrangement a priori, and let me [*be*] at liberty to go on & obtain sub^a. God forbid you shou^d turn a thought to any Book that is not most profitable. . . .

Every hour the People are telling of the Great Good that you & I may do by putting into the hands of the young "who know not their right hand from the left," our moral looking glasses. If you think you give me too much (40 pr. Cent) give less. So they be well done & speedily sent to me that's all I care for, with show bills perhaps on a Folio paper & the caricatures *pasted* on the head. . . .

¹ Ralph W. Pomeroy & Co., Baltimore, 1817, and his *God's Revenge against Adultery* of published for Weems the first edition found of the same year (*Bibliography, title 210*). his *Life of Franklin*, 1815 (*Bibliography, title*

L. & F. Vol. 17.

WASHINGTON May 31, 1816

D^r. SIR — . . . Here is a good idea. If you were to put on a sheet or half sheet one of your good portraits of Washington, and then under it some popular remembrances of his Virtues, Services &c, with a few striking Commendations of y^r Life of Wash, & the No. of *editions, translations*, copies sold &c as best to stimulate Lethargy & spring Curiosity, — have these pasted on bits of pasteboard & sent with 10 or 20 of the books with every box of Bibles that I shall order, you w^d. in this way augment y^r sales greatly. The above is merely a hint. You can give it the proper shape. . . .

This young Collinite ran a parallel course a little to the West thro' Shepherds, Martinbg &c. &c, Thank God there is room for all, & all may do good; but I wish to be among the foremost. And therefore am anxious to hear that the Bibles are on the way & the pamphlets with some Washingtons & the above show bills. I shall be able to work off a great many for you. I told you yesterday & I tell you today that I want of you nothing but what is fair & equitable. If what you have allow^d me, as to the profits on my Marion, Franklin & Pamphlets, be too much make it less, but I want Washington on the same rates, to avoid the endless vexation of making to my Coadjutors, different commissions on the different books. Tell me when you will put Marion to press. For I have a most gallant act of his which the Members of Congress from that Country beg I will put in the fourth edition. I have also an elegant critique on Marion by Judge Brakinridge,¹ . . .

L. & F. Vol. 17.

FRED^k.TOWN. M^d. June 12 — 1816

D^r. SIR — . . . As they [*the Mellish Maps*] are to travel over turnpikes so far they ought to be folded well in the *softest* paper, avoid^s the *spike*

¹ Probably Hugh Henry Brackenridge of Philadelphia, whose commendation of Weems' *Life of Washington* was included in that book beginning with the edition of 1809 (see *Bibliography*, title 14). Brackenridge was the editor of the *United States Magazine* in Philadelphia

and a judge of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. See *Philadelphia Magazines*, by Albert H. Smyth, p. 53, and *McCulloch's Additions to Thomas's History of Printing*, in *ProcAAS*, Vol. XXXI, pp. 95, 98. I have never found any critique on *Marion* from his pen.

nails. I grieve for lack of the Pamphlets. Please order the plate of the Adulterer from Pomeroy & Toy¹ Printers 126 Market st. Balt^o. to be sent by steamboat to you, by some friend. Shall write soon again.

L. & F. Vol. 17.

DUMFRIES, VA. [N.d. postmarked June 13, 1816.]

D^r SIR — I am just arriv^d from my overhill excursion. I wish the direction of y^r better judgment. Elijah started *before me*, & had an infinitely better field to cultivate. Supposing that Jesse was to follow Elijah with *the books* — (for reasons *painful to us both*)² and also supposing from the good number of Elijah's sub^s, that Jesse w^d require 4 to 6 weeks to distribute, I made an engagement with all my sub^s to meet me or him, at the Court houses & get their books in *August*. . . .

A Person getting sub^s. for Melish^s. Maps has forbid Elijah and consequently me, from getting any more sub^s. I can hardly think that you have no right to do as you directed me. If I can go on, w^d it not be advisable to send me to the *South instantly*. Let me hear from you DIRECTLY. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 17.

SHIPPENSBURG. June 22 — [18]16.

M. CAREY ESQR., . . . Wou'd God you could make haste with the pamphlets & add Hymen's Recruit^s Serjeant to them — Much ask^d for. Can't you choose some most lovely young Lady as a frontispiece for it? . . .

L. & F. Vol. 17.

SHIPPENSBG June 28. 1816.

D^r SIR — . . . And now in place of dashing, like an eagle, among the thick covies of my subscribers bearing off the feathers & fat of all manner of Pennsylv^a notes here I am oblig^d to crawl off with a heavy heart

¹ Pomeroy & Toy printed the first and third volumes of Davies' *Sermons* for Weems (*Bibliography*, title 239). See also *f.n.* to letter of May 28, 1816.

² From other letters in the Lea & Febiger collection, it is to be inferred that Weems had found his nephew Elijah not very dependable.

1816]

LETTERS

retrac^g my steps over the mountains, perhaps towards Gettysburg — or the Lord knows where.

You neglect me about my *pamphlets*, dreadfully. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 17.

GETTYSBURG. June 29. 1816

Dr. SIR — After passing one of the most dreary roads over one of the most rocky mountains I ever saw, I am this moment arriv^d in this Village — the post office & all the stores have been travers^d by me in search of the Bibles. None to be found. to avoid faineantism — to me a species of Devilism I am just setting out for the following little towns — 1 — to Littletown 10 miles, thence to Uniontown, thence to Westminster — to Hanover — to Oxford, to Abbots & to Berlin & to York.

L. & F. Vol. 17.

YORK. July 6, 1816.

Dr. SIR — . . . I beg^d you to make some adjustment of the price of Franklin, Marion &c with Washington so as to let me sell this latter like the rest in price, for I can't think of losing a 15 Dollar bible-time in hawking a dollar Vol. & the Merch^{ts} will not buy at discount of 10 pr. cent. You sent me 24 Washington to Chambersbg 28 to Shippensburg making 52. These I have in great part sold by giving the 5th copy to the Merch^{ts}. As to not furnishing me with subⁿ papers for the elegant Bibles, be assur^d you are losing much. Now that these bibles are getting into the hands of Influential characters and may be shewn as Samples, if they had subscription papers they cou'd procure numbers of Signat^s. from among their country friends. One for every 9 names is a grand consideration among commercial People. I also wrote to you about getting from Gentlemen in Carolina & Georgia lists of Books which they w^d want, & such as w^d be like [*ly*] to sell at once. 5 years ago I knew what books w^d stand a chance, but books like everything else are coming in & going out of fashion. I pray you to accelerate things. I hop^d ere this to have had the Bibles nearly all sold. And I pray you to send the pamphlets, (if no other be ready send the Drunkard) I am losing much by

not having *show bills* of these stuck up at the *taverns* as I go along. They w^d defray all my travel expences & require that I sh^d take less money out of yr hands. . . .

Yours &c

L. & F. Vol. 17.

STRAWDSBURG [*n.d. rec'd July 8, 1816.*]

Dr SIR. . . . I pray you once more to think of the importance of setting me to do things in the way that will save time & labour, & therefore greatly accelerate work & conglom[er]ate wealth. Let me begin at the end of the chain & go from link to link in order, Begin at Lancaster, thence to Columbia, Marietta, & up the river to Middletown, Harrisburg, — Carlisle, York, Gettysburg &c &c *Haste! Haste! Haste! Tempus fugit, tempus irreparabile fugit.* I pray you enter in my list of Hanover Subscribers, 2 of the 15 Doll^{ar} Bibles, *with psalms*, Of the Greencastle & Newville sub^s for coarse bibles, *all with psalms*. They wont take *without psalms*. I pray you *mind that. The above at 8 o'clock A.M.*

At 4 o'clock P.M. same day — The Rev^d Mr. Sample,¹ a mountain of holy flesh, told me this morning that he knew of but one man in the place who w^d. subscribe for a bible — that yr. Bible carts had been here as thick as weasels in a hen yard selling bibles at nearly half price. I began, on this, to think I was too near to yr Foragers to glean even a solitary subscriber. I even offer^d to compliment one of his little flock with a Bible if he wd go with me & aid me to get 15 sub^s. He shrank from it as a lost hope. I dashed out by myself, and have gotten 23 Sub^s. . . . I shall charge on the road to Reading. Suppose you write to me there telling me that the books are on the way to Lancaster, Columbia, Marietta, &c. &c. Pray send some of the pamphlets — How goes on Marion? I am inclin^d to believe that if you w^d give a large folding plate of some one, or two of Marion's Coups de main — in the style of "*Col^o Johnson's Mounted Men charging the British Artillerists & Indians*,"² with a good

¹ 'Married, On Thursday last, by Lancaster Journal (Pennsylvania), Mar. 12, N. W. Sample, Minister of the Gospel, Mr. Jacob 1914, 110f.
Sherer to Mrs. Margaret Jefferies, daughter of Samuel Carpenter, Esq. all of this borough.'

² No such frontispiece to *Marion* found.

edition on thick paper, you might soon do great things with this work. Every body tells [*me*] that you w^d render good service to the cause of Republican Principles, also exalt the valour & patriotism of the rising generation. As we never did those great things that I counted on when I sold you the Life of Washington, I do really think that in Equity you ought to allow me a good commission on that book. But observe I care very little about it as to asking for such a douceur. You promis^d to print Franklin & give me 33 1/3. I am not positive that I shall print that work this summer. At any rate I am willing to wave [*sic*] giving you the trouble & expence of printing that book for me if you chuse to give the same profit on Washington, which as the types are standing must cost you much less. . . .

I ought to have show bills for Washington, for the sake of Merch^{ts}. You give me no aid in these things. I wish to do something for you & for!!!

Yours

M. L. WEEMS.

L. & F. Vol. 17.

NEW HOLLAND, PA. July 10, 1816.

. . . 'Tis 11 o'clock P.M. and I have just finish^d a Sermon to a host of good Dutch People, who are mightily taken with me for having been Chaplain to the Great Gen^l Washington, and the writer of his wonderful Life.¹

L. & F. Vol. 17.

[July 11, 1816.]

. . . Gen^l Wayne says his father never committed that blunder about Old Bon Repos. He is displeas^d — and I wish you w^d put some other name. By the Bye he did commit it. . . . I beg you to change Arnold, in the affair of killing Gen^l Frazer, to Morgan, as it stood at first. Persons are now living who have heard Morgan tell it 1000 times, sorrow^g.²

¹ See notes to letter [*received August 13*] *ington*. I do not find that Carey made either of the changes here suggested.

1802.

² Anecdotes included in his *Life of Wash-*

L. & F. Vol. 17.

READING, July 14. — [18]16

D^r SIR — Finding in my pocket book 42 Doll^s that I can do without, I send it to you. I am at this place — the incessant rain has kept me within doors, but God willing I shall dash out Monday morning — with what success I know not. As the town is large, & I may be here 3 or 4 days, I wish you cou^d send me up, by stage perhaps, 6 or 8 doz. of my pamphlets — made up tight & well twin^d in coarse paper, directed to me at stage office. . . .

If you have any show bills for the Drunkard &c. please send a copy or two —

L. & F. Vol. 17.

HARRISBURG, July 30. 1816.

D^r SIR.

. . .

If you think of sending me to Georgia, you w^d do well to write to Peter Early late Gov^r of that State & to Gen^l Mitchell present Gov^r, both great Lawyers, & Democrats. They w^d give you [*a*] catalogue of Books in Law, History &c &c that w^d sell to a large amount. And they w^d do it with pleasure for y^r Olive Branch has given you much character in that Country. . . .

*L. & F. Vol. 17.*HARRISB^g July 31. 1816

D^r. SIR. . . . As to the plates for pamphlets, I told you that Pomroy the Printer in Baltimore has the plate for the Adulterer — *cut afresh*, for the Gambler & Mary Finley, as they are worn out I pray you have them done anew & in as beautiful a style as you can — for the effect of good things will abundantly pay extra costs.

. . . As to Marion if you cou^d, as I said before, have for a frontispiece, something in the way of Col^o. Johnson's charge on the British Artillerists in Canada, it w^d do admirably. There is much asking here after Marion. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 17.

READING, Octob. 8, — [18]16

DEAR SIR — This morning (11 O'clock) reach^d the place of date — came thro' Newholland, no Books! on the right & left saw my sub^a. mourn^d that I had no books for them — search^d all over Strawsburg, No Books. Surely there has been a Caucus in hell against us, and 40,000 Devils have sworn by the life of Beelzebub that I shall have no bibles. What else cou'd have unbibled Strawsburg, Newholland, Morgantown &c all within 50 miles of Philad^a and three months notice given, and yet after all, no Books! If it were raining cats & dogs there w^d be some comfort, as I could not then stir out to sell Bibles; but to see day after day such clear, cool, sweet weather and no books tis enough to make a man's heart bleed. And it does make my heart bleed to see on every side of me the fat-back^d Dutchmen, sowing thick as hail their seed for the bread that perisheth, I can't sow one solitary grain of the bread of Life. . . .

Make enquiry for some coarse strong horses but dont buy till I come. Shall be done here by 10 O'clock tomorrow. Have 80\$ due 15 miles off. Shall then come on.

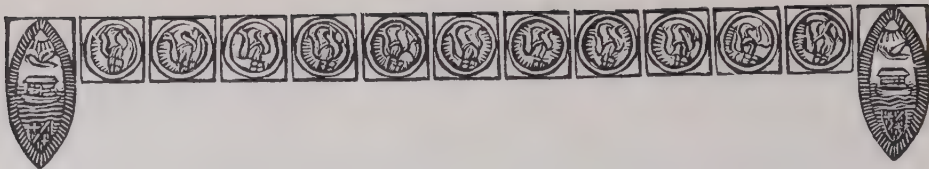
[To POMEROY & TOY]

*L. & F. Vol. 17.*PHILA^d, Octob. 24, 1816.

DR. SIRS — M^r. Carey, to whom I am engag^d, is willing to take Davies' Sermons off my hands, provided you will be content to be paid in 3, 6, & 9 months. I sh^d be pleas^d if you cou^d accede to this. There is no doubt you w^d be paid by me, if Life & Health be spared. But as Life is precarious, and widows & children sometimes slow pay, it might turn out politic to take M^r. Carey, i. e. a big horse in place of a little one. Tho' your own interest is consulted in this affair, yet as it will be a convenience to me, your accession to it will not cause me to be the less mindful of you when I come to get books printed as I hope to do e're long — on a large scale. If you approve, write to M^r Carey, immediately.¹

¹ At the end of a bill of Oct. 24, 1816, from William Kerr to Mathew Carey for wagon harness, pole straps, halters, etc., costing \$47.50, Weems wrote: 'Dr. Sir — please pay the Bearer The above sum . . . I commend to yr. atten-

tion (when work is wanted) Mr. Kerr . . . I have had a good deal of this kind of work done, but none cheaper than this by Mr. Kerr.' *Mathew Carey Account Books*, Vol. 29:4474.



To listen to him is to combine the excitement of going out with the economy of staying at home. — HENRY JAMES.

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 19.

ALEXAND^a Jan^y 3. 1817

DEAR SIR — . . . Three or four days ago I was much hurt by a letter from Pomeroy & Toy, Printers of Davies' Sermons, call^g on me to pay for the printing — I had hop^d all that was settled long ago. You agreed to buy them of me at cost. And when I wrote to you 3 months ago, perhaps, you answered that you had no objection, but was waiting to know what the Printers were to charge. You know very well that I need not be writing to you to pay for these books; as one begging in that matter. For were I like most other men having money coming to them and that money too by 100^s & by 1000^s constantly going thro' my hands, were I inclin^d to stop my own part, as indeed you have often desir^d, I sh^d not need [*to*] be asking [*you*] to pay this small matter for me. My year is now up for which you agreed to give me & Jesse 27.00 Dollars.¹ This with my commission on near 11000 Dollars sent you, makes the blessed sum of 3800 Dollars. Now of all this what have I ever ask^d you? Or what have you ever sent to M^{rs}. Weems? And yet that amiable woman has had many a cry for want of the comforts of life & from being in debt for borrowing of her neighbours for the few necessities she got. Poor D^r. Ewell put 700\$ of the books he got of you into the hands of a near Relative to go about & sell. The 700 are nearly gone and the D^r has reciv^d only 20\$. From another still nearer Relative with whom he had confided 2500\$ of books, he has reciv^d only 200. They say they have families to support as well as D^r. Ewell! Have I treated you so? Now all I want of you is immediately to put my mind at rest in this affair of Davies Sermons. Let me not in my old age be taught, and by you to speak of human Virtue as did Brutus.

¹ Carey's letters to Jesse Weems commence ing subscriptions for, and delivering books, for in the Lea & Febiger files Feb. 18, 1817, and the firm. show that the latter was already vending, seek-

[*M. L. W.*?¹]

'For the Gazette. Mons. Printair: I arrive ici from Paris — I am von etranger, de bon famille. I leave my contre to pay visit des Etats Unis — and I do come here in the Diligence de Baltimore — Eh bien! I will see all de curiosite de Washingtone. — Je paye my respects du Monsieur Madison: cette brave homme — very respectable, very good man — tres gracieuse. I do see Madame aussi — Belle femme, en verite. I go to the chamber de deputies. I do hear messieurs make von long speech — beaucoup de eloquence!

Mais, monsieur printair, I vill go to the Ball — ah, ha! pour voir le dame Americaine! — In my contree, dance beaucoup — very well. Eh bien — I go to de assemblee — Je demande mon billet d'entre — my ticket pour dance — Combien — Monsieur, maitre le dance, how much to pay? — il dit — five dollars. — Cinque gourd! Commez? — ver dear — tres cher — Mon pays five francs — non plus — no more. — Sair, you no subscribe — Gentlemen, en ville, paye 3 dollar — Le diable! — I am etranger — de make me paye five dollar — Eh! — cet charmin parbleau — cet egal. — I don't care — Je suis riche.

I go to the ball — begar, monsieur printair, no one axe me to dance! Je reste comme un statute! — I no dance! Je ne pas le connoissance de dame — I don't know a lady — I am like a pauvre solitaire! — Eh bien — we go to supper — no one axe me to eat — I have un bon appetite — parbleau — Je pay five dollare — Je no eat, no dance!

Comment, monsieur printair, in my countree, le nom d'un etranger, is von passport — You have von fine payee — you very polite — you no axe me to dance — to eat supper — you takee moi monee — parbleau — I go — I return to mon beau payee. — Ven un Americaine arrive en Paris, I will have de honneur to pay mon devoir, and will give him de lady to dance — I will not make him pay five dollars — and no axe him to boir or mangee, and he shall dance de cotillion, san depance — aussi — Monsieur printaire, I have the honor to salute you, with very great consideration,

ETIENNE LE BLOND.'

Washington City Weekly Gazette, Jan. 4, 1817, LC. Reprinted with slight changes in *Alexandria Herald*, Jan. 17, 1817, LC.

¹ This is written in Weems' manner to the life, in mimicking broken French. Compare *The Life of Marion* and *God's Revenge against Duelling*, as well as the two other skits in the

newspapers of July 1, and Aug. 10, 1820. Moreover, he had passed through Washington and Alexandria at just about this time.

*L. & F. Vol. 19.**DUMFRIES [n.d. received Jan. 9, 1817.]*

DEAR SIR — . . . I lament that you will not let me into yr plans with respect to the latitudes in w^h I am to cruise this year, whether Northern or Southern.

I begg^d of you a letter ad longum but got none. The box sent to Alexand^a reach^d that place in one hour after I left it. I disposed of a great part of it & sent you, as above, the proceeds. I am pleas^d to hear of your Religious Olive Branch ¹ coming forward. I was always pleas^d with that work. If you cou'd flower it a little more, which you are very able to do by taking time, it w^d go better. . . .

*L. & F. Vol. 19.**DUMFRIES [n.d. posted Jan. 11, 1817.]*

SIR — . . . Your letter is just brought me. You say I continue to growl & complain. I w^d never do so if I were treat^d as I have endeavor^d to deserve. And it grieves me to the Soul that a Gentleman in most things so magnanimous shou'd for such a Trifle (to you) as Davies Sermons — & a small edition too, keep me in such pain and subject me to such hard thoughts from a couple of poor young Printers. If I recapitulated what I had done, how I had been disappointed — I mean of the pleasure of making great sales to equal y^r. expectations from me — and also that for the sake of keeping up the pleasure of remitting to you I had often suffer^d M^{rs}. Weems to want “my part” which you *once* or *twice* told me to retain, — I say if I recapitulated this it was in hopes that it w^d on a person of y^r sensibility produce the effect of causing you to put forever to sleep my uneasiness about this trifle (Davies Sermons).

¹ ‘Proposals for publishing by subscription the Religious Olive Branch; or Faults on nearly all sides, establishing by uncontrovertible evidence that the hideous crime of religious persecution has been perpetrated by nearly all denominations of Christians when possessed of power. February 24, 1817 to October, 1834.’ See also *Bibliographia Catholica Americana*, Joseph M. Finotti, N. Y., 1872, LC. — Advertised in the *American Volunteer* (Carlisle,

Pa.), Feb. 20, 1817, HU. — ‘Mathew Carey of Philadelphia is about publishing a Religious Olive Branch; the object of which he declares to be the promotion of more charity than at present exists among different sects. Two writers in the *Aurora* however declare that Mr. Carey’s new work is intended to injure the Christian religion’ [*Anon.*] *Virginia Patriot* (Richmond), Mar. 31, 1817, LC.

As to “closing our concerns,” if after doing so much for you, considering the many interruptions thrown in my way; and if after so disinterestedly, for a poor man, putting nearly the whole into your hands, I must not complain of y^r. neglect of me, I certainly have no great cause to dread such an event. But I do not wish it. I have ever been griev^d when thinking of past disasters; and I have and do now rejoice in the hope that by a strong & vigorous prosecution of subscriptions, sales & auctions all our past ebbings may be gloriously buried & forgotten under floods of success. Therefore I am well content to make the trial and repeat the *sat verbum* with all my heart. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 19.

GETTYSB^g Jan'y 17, 1817.

SIR — . . . You complain of my letters as tending to irritate & hurt your feelings. I never meant to hurt y^r feelings. All I wanted was that you sh^d no longer expose me to the censure of the Printers of Davies' Sermons. And as to my summer & Fall letters to you their whole aim was to prevail on you to send me Bibles as fast as I cou^d sell them for you; and not delay them so long beyond the promis^d time as to cause the Sub^s. to refuse them which has happen^d — I know not how often. Tho' I can, God be thank^d for it, go very well alone, perhaps as well as in any company, yet was it far from my wish to leave you. It w^d, on the contrary, afford me the highest satisfaction to see the time when you cou^d say that all old disasters were abundantly made up by our new successes. And, as I said in my last, this cou^d be done were things properly managed — and for a competent time. To be sure, this is not the place, especially as I am to see you so shortly, to explain and point out these things. But I sh^d be willing, on terms perfectly equitable & fair, to give the thing a proper & full trial *by subscriptions, sales & auctions*. I know that M^r. Wayne counts on me to aid him in another undertaking, by Gen^l Marshall, of Geo. Washington. But tho' I love Wayne & Marshall & Washington, yet I wish never to leave the Bible & other good Books. And if you cou^d prevail on M^r. Wayne to settle this long & complicated — & to *me* most vexatious & unprofitable affair, by the way you & I have always settled our business i.e. *Compromise*, I sh^d be willing to spend the rest of my life with you & Henry in the Bible & other good book sales

& *auctioneering* throughout the Continent. I tell you again, that what with selling bibles got from you at y^r. large discount; & by selling my own pieces which, thank God, are getting to be most unexpectedly popular, I could make fully as much if not much more than any person will ever give me, yet I am very willing to stick by you until we make up all our past leeway. Mr. Wayne is an amiable man, but I fear he will never do me Justice. I told him over & over, again & again, that I cou'd not be answerable for the numerous agents he chose that I sh^d place his books with. But I fear he will. And in that event I shall be most *cruelly wrong^d*. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 19.

Jan'y 31, 1817.

DEAR SIR — . . . Thank God we shall soon be getting better money. And I thank God too that after all our miserable storms and buffetings we have at last a fair prospect of making the Land. Yes, ORDERS & SUBSCRIPTIONS are the sure card play that we ought mainly to stick to. Now hear me once more in your life. Formerly I intreated you to reserve y^r fire for the old Man of War the Family Bible. Now I intreat you to lay another Manilla ship on board, I mean HUNTER'S SACRED BIOGRAPHY. I tell you this is the very season & age of the Bible, Bible Dictionaries, Bible tales, Bible stories, — Bibles plain or paraphrased, Carey's Bibles, Collin's Bibles, Clarke's Bibles, Kimptor's Bibles, no matter what or whose all all will go down — so wide is the Crater of Public Appetite at this time. God be thank^d for it. Well of all parts of this blessed book, the Biographical (as belongs to man) are the most attractive.

And when so elegantly delineated — so elegantly dress^d, & so elegantly recommended as this most popular Work it cannot possibly fail. But to be short I do not wish you to appear in it. Only let me have 4 engravings *well done* and if I don't sell you 1000 copies (at 10\$) i. e. 10,000 Dollars worth in 15 months & without any or but little interruption to our Bibles, I shall be more mistaken than I ever was in my life. A book at 10 Doll^s. you see *will tell*, every copy that is sold will tell to some good purpose. And here is another thing I wish you to think of. Had you printed my Life of Washington on the poor profit of *shares*, I

suspect it might not have turn^d out to such advantages as it has. Now you see by making it your own you have push^d it with a spirit that has and will all y^r life make you good returns. Now there is Marion by numbers of People pronounc^d more interesting still than Washington, for 7 months that we have had it as a partnership book it has not even yet got *off the stocks*. Now if it were your own & the profits your own, you w^d have better inducement to have it rigg^d and out on an extensive & lucrative cruise in a short time. I will sell it to you.¹ You have lying about in Virginia a parcel of old books. Can't we make an exchange? *Tell* me when you think and talk over this. Send Jesse back to me, or set him to do anything good you can find. I pray you see about the engraving you intended for Charles. I beg you insist on having . . . 30 copies colored for me by Monday 4 oclock.

Yr friend

I am about the Catalogues.

L. & F. Vol. 19.

COLUMBIA Feb. 8. — [18]17.

DEAR SIR: — . . . As to Hunter I repeat my request that you have the Engravings such as to cause you to be *talk^d of*. Give me 4 or 6 Elegant engravings, and allow me as I said 14 months from the time of starting and I feel a good hope I shall sell of that one *work* 10.000 Doll^s. God's Mercy! is not such a hope worth fostering? As to Davies, My dear Sir, why sh^d there be a dead fly in such a pot of Arabian spices!! I hope you have written to Pomeroy, & that the vile ghost is laid forever. How come on the Designs &c for Hunter — also engravings for the fine prints of Pomona? Write to me *ad longum*, to Carlisle, you can't send one of the Engravings. The colourings of the Caricatures by Mr. Charles boys² are very wrong. The cheeks &c of the Topers are all *most healthfully* fresh & florid. But it ought not to be so. Big warty noses and grog blossom^d cheeks, to be *natural* sh^d be set off most shockingly with pallid & distemper^d complexions. You will I know have them alter^d.

¹ I have no evidence of such a transaction, though Carey published editions in 1816 and thereafter.

² For the *Drunkard's Looking Glass*, 1818 (*Bibliography, title 202*).

I have written to Potts (of whom I got the skins at Trenton) to send you some more skins for the Bible. Tis sad that even Quakers can't deal fair now a days.

L. & F. Vol. 19.

ELIZABETHTOWN. Feb. 11, 1817.

DEAR SIR, . . . You gave me t'other day a handful of Chaffy paper. Now mark my gratitude. Don't let the Religious Olive Branch see the light of 1817. Think how many need your book and how many will assuredly read it provided it be "factus adunguem[""] — and contain, as you are well able to make it, utile *dulci*. If Jesse¹ has not left Philad^a, I wish he cou'd take down 100 Hymen^s R Serjeant strongly paper^d to be sent from Baltimore to me at Hagerstown by stage, the cost is a mere nothing. I sold yesterday 100 & to day got paid for 100 & more of the pamph^{ts}.

I doubt not you have put Davies to rest, God grant it!! I intreat you to send for Charles and desire him to make the faces of his drunken characters look as whiskey always makes them, i.e. haggard & dis-temper^d — It must strike everyone that a pure healthy rouge is unnatural in Dead Subjects & may do harm to the Living. Let their carbuncles show disease and disgrace. If Jessy be at hand, give him my manuscripts of Franklin that I sent you & also the two beautiful pictures I sent with them. If you cou'd get Marion bound & sent on as soon as possible to Baltimore, say 100 — it w^d be well. I have a number due in the up country. It w^d be policy in you to make that book your own.

¹ Besides allusions in Weems' letters to his son Jesse's employment by Carey, there are letters from Jesse Ewell to the firm in the Lea & Febiger files. See note to letter of Jan. 3, 1817.

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LETTERS

L. & F. Vol. 19.

HARRISBURGH Feb. 13 1817.

I send back some books sent here last summer, evidently thro' mistake.

118 Washington — 100
23 Olive branch, I think 2.75
12 Calm dissuasives

. . .

NB. Our honest friend Mr Wyeth means to take a great part of them. . . .

Your friend

M. L. WEEMS.

Clear for Carlisle.

L. & F. Vol. 19.

GETTYSBURG, Feb. 16 — [18]17.

DEAR SIR — . . . Detain^d, a little while, by the loss of my Horses, thought *stolen* but, *happily recover^d!!!* Shall start again directly. Am surpris^d that our large drunken Caricature does not solicit Purchasers in all Beholders. All gaze & laugh, but only one yet has bought. However by exchanging them for some things I wanted I have got clear of half my original 30. I wonder you & I did not *Americanize the labels*. "Purl & bitters" for ex[ample]. ought to be alter^d, being obsolete — also others. Please cast y^r. eye over them. The letters on the plate are wretchedly cut. I wish Mr. Charles cou'd do them better. Give this thing fair play & I verily believe that I shall sell a great many for you yet. I send you a note — it is from a *very safe* man, and will be call^d for in 3 WEEKS. please don't MISPLACE it. My manuscripts for Franklin, I pray you don't lose 'em. also the two handsome pictures that were sent with them. . . .

[Unsigned.]

Write instantly to Fredericktown Md. I am dying for Marion &c &c.

L. & F. Vol. 19.

CHAMBERSBURG, Feb. 21 [1817.]

DEAR SIR. I'd be glad if I cou'd get . . . [illegible] 30 Caricatures of tipplers. . . .

I long to be doing something handsome on Hunter, Coxe &c &c. But I must get me a gigg. And contrive to cruise in latitudes to which the Books may be promptly sent. I must get Recommendations of Hunter from those Divines who stand highest in their respective churches. Staughton¹ among the Baptists, Bishop White,² among the Episcopalians &c. &c.

I must get letters from great Men recommending to the People of the U. Stats *more much more* attention to rich luscious fruits to counteract the morbid appetite excited by the Devil in Whiskey &c &c. O if I can but make a good start I hope to make amends yet for all the time lost & labour wasted in the last year & now in gathering up the vile fragments. . . .

As to the R[*eligious*]. O[*live*]. Branch, tis one of the most interesting works ever attempted in this or any other country. I therefore pray you w^d take y^r time & do it to please the Million &

Your friend

L. & F. Vol. 19.

GREEN CASTLE, Feb. 22 [1817].

. . . I have now more but cant conveniently send. I would have . . . [iorn] if possible Hanover or Gettysburg, or Baltimore itself.

200 Bachelors

15 Dutch bibles

figure 1 plate or 2 6 50

¹ Rev. William Staughton, 1770-1829, Principal of the Baptist Theological Institution, Washington, D. C.; first President of Columbian College, D. C. See *Memoir of the Rev. William Staughton, D.D.*, by Rev. S. W. Lynd, A.M., Boston, 1824; and see *Twentieth Century Biographical Dictionary of Notable Americans*.

² William White, 1748-1836, first Bishop of Pennsylvania, 1787-1836. See *Account of the Meeting of the Descendants of Colonel Thomas White of Maryland*, Philadelphia, 1879; and *A List of Emigrant Ministers to America 1690-1811*, by Gerald Fothergill, London, 1904, LC.

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LETTERS

6 maps 10\$
50 Carey Cat^s. for Drunkards. 37 $\frac{1}{2}$
60 Franklin, 60 Marion

Cannot you send so that I may get in 12 days

Yours in such haste.

L. & F. Vol. 19.

HAGERSTOWN Feb. 28, 1817.

DEAR SIR — . . .

NB. I have been embargoed ever since the 22^d by the snow — deep & dreadful beyond the memory of Man.

I think you observ^d that the profits on the pamphlets w^d warrant the risk of putting them on sale at the numerous towns thro' which I shall pass. Perhaps the same game might be play^d with Washington, Franklin & Marion. As I shall visit and revisit the same towns several times in the year on this new plan I could sell you a great many in this way and without any risk on earth except fire; and that you know we are all liable to everywhere. I w^d Heaven that Henry w^d have an eye on the Packers of my Pamphlets, and see that equal numbers be sent of the different varieties. For a long time past they have sent a great many of *some* and *none* of *others*. Hence the sales have been prevented. What with the deep snows, bad roads & the Dear knows what else, I go on most dismally slow. But probably still I shall get around by the time all the Engravings, Prospectus &c &c for Hunter, Coxé &c &c are ready for me. . . .

Wou'd it not be well as I shall be coming to Hanover to send me 15 Dutch Bibles — 1 or 2 plates — 200 Hymen Recruit^s Serjeant, 50 Franklin, 50 Marion, 50 Grand Caricat^s of drunkenness. If you can send them to me to Hanover or York or Baltimore in 15 or 20 days with 6 70 plate Scott¹ & 4 plain, I'll warrant.

turn

¹ *Ad.* ' . . . W. W. Woodward . . . [publishing] Dr. Thomas Scott's Family Bible, 4000 copies printing.' *Lancaster Journal* (Pennsylvania), Jan. 3, 1817, L10F.
Third edition . . . to be in 3 volumes, . . .

I wish you w^{ld} caution Jesse about Counterfeits — they are very thick. He ought to take them to some bank before he leaves the towns. And he ought to ask concerning every note he takes.

L. & F. Vol. 19.

FREDERICKTOWN March 6, 1817.

DEAR SIR — . . . Gleaning goes on slowly, as it is always easier to seize the loaf than to pick up a crumb. As to the “proposal for Washington” w^d it *not be better* for you to send me y^r best thoughts on the subject & allow me to add *mine* & then send back to you?

As you will probably give but 4 plates to Hunter will it *not be true* policy to make them HIGHLY SENTIMENTAL & SHINING? Wou’d it not be well — by all means I shou^d think so — to send me at the least 30 Franklin, 30 Marion, 100 Hymen, & a box if only 6 of Melish’s Maps — to Gettysburg, by stage if no other way? I mean to be there on the 17th. I want prodigiously to be dashing with Hunter, Coxe, Washington &c. But by all means — and I know you accord with the idea — by all means give me 3 or 4 Ad Captandum Designs with strong expressions & all the Et. Cœtera necessary to insure success — I speak of *Washington* now, having already said enough of this sort about Hunter.

L. & F. Vol. 19.

BALT^o March 11, 1817.

DEAR SIR . . . I mourn that I am not doing more for you. This business of getting 2 to 300 Dollars a week is a poor business. And therefore I could not think of quitting it to run home to see my family tho’ they were but a short distance from me & I had been absent 8 weeks. I pray you to start me as soon as you can on Hunter &c. &c. &c. The more I think of it the more am I struck with the importance of your keeping back the Religious O Branch untill you can get it “*fact. ad unguem.*” Incalculable is the Good which it will do if finished in your best style. I thought the words immolate, & immolated rather too frequently repeated in y^r. preface. Don’t make it too large. Johnson says that an Author may say too much. I am and ever have been immensely solicitous about the fate & good success of this work.

L. & F. Vol. 19.

OXFORD March 21, 1817.

DEAR SIR . . . You mean to have "Specimens for Hunter & Washington." 150 will hardly be enough. However more can be got. When & where shall I get them? I shall be done in this State in 4 days. My time is all running to waste. Creeping along such roads as these, at the rate of 15 miles a day when you have so many tons of blessed books, and there are on the vast surface of this Country so many thousands of families that w^d jump to subscribe & with rapture w^d read. We are not to infer that because we were unsuccessful in getting up the books to the Pennsylv^a. Sub^s. last summer that we shall be so always. No, I am of opinion that there is a Population within 30 or 40 miles of our Seaport that will take off all y^r. books. And certainly there can be no difficulty in getting books to so short a distance as that. Davies, to the amount of 4,000 ought to be all turn'd into money by Christmass. If we were to dispose of our waggon & get a couple of cheap Gigs, Jesse & myself cou^d I hope in the course of the summer do something that w^d thin your shelves. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 19.

HAGERSTOWN March 27 — 1817.

DEAR SIR . . . From horrible roads & disasters I have lost one or two posts — also made a most dismal progress. However I am now near the end of our severe penance for last summer's errors. From the style of Jesse^s letters, I begin to think it w^d be impolicy to keep him as a humble Tender, or long boat in *my wake*. No, he seems fit to take the Sea by himself & make a bold dash for you at once. However let that be with yourself.

I have business near Balt^o. about the 4th of Ap. If you have or can leave anything at that place worth coming down in the steamboat, perhaps it might be well [*to meet*] me there with all the Prospectusses for our Spring & Summer Enterprises. I am closing out very fast. I think we ought to write or talk fully on the subject of the pamphlets, Wash. Franklin & Marion. A great deal might be done by a proper distribution of these *few pieces* only throughout the Country. One Gentleman, in Balt^o. thinks he cou^d to the Tinnars & Traders to the South & West, dis-

pose of 300 dozen of the pamphlets — And offer^d to take that quantity on commission if I w^d let him wholesale them at 20 pr cent disc^t. to the Tinnors & 6 pr cent for business. I wish you w^d send me in equal numbers 100 dozen to Balt^o. to care of Wm. Stansbury,¹ Merch^t. Old town Balt^o. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 19.

HAGERSTOWN March 28. 1817.

DEAR SIR. . . . I now perceive the folly of waiting to glean too close. In picking up dollars & cents as in wheat & Barley it is better to leave a few for the Birds, & dash away into a fresh field. But I was led into it from not having the Proposals for the Squadron all ready for me. Having business near Balt^o. I hope in 6 days to be there if not stopp^d by a letter at Fredericktown. As I said before Marion, Washington, Franklin & the pamphlets bear a good profit, & much might be made of them by a judicious distribution of them in *small parcels*, with *Captandum Showbills*, and in the right hands for OUR SORT of Morals & Politics. . . . I wrote to you for an assortment of the Pamphlets. 100 Doz. to be sent to meet me at Balt^o. to care of Captⁿ. W^m. Stansbury Merch^t. Old town Balt^o — if you send, send directly. I find Melish is very popular. There has been, *in these parts*, a little Frenchman, a Mon^r Vorlette who has promis^d a grand Map & gotten every body to subscribe, and yet I have sold off all you sent me. I suppose by a Judicious distribution of a few, in Rich & Influential hands, & with the premium of 1 for 10, many hundreds might be sold. I pray you not to be angry about the ill natured attacks &c on the Olive branches. I said if I am to be at Balt^o, & you had business there it might do no harm to meet

Yours

¹ 'Of the house of Stansbury and Hollingsworth, dwel. N. end of Bridge o t [Old Town]' *Baltimore Directory*, 1814, LC.

*L. & F. Vol. 19.*FRED^k.TOWN. Ap. 1, [1817.]

DEAR SIR. . . . God Almighty be prais^d, the tugging & tossing, the tumbling & Deviling, thro' thick & thin, over mountain & hill, is nearly all over. For I've got now but to run to Tanneytown¹ & Middleburg, & all is done. I pass thro' those places this afternoon & tomorrow morning, and thence shall hasten to Balt^o. there to MEET YOUR CARGO of Prospectus^s & the Lord knows what of good for the Coming Campaign. Davies, Hunter, Coxe & the Bible, the Trio (Wash. F. & Marion)² & the Pamphlets will I hope begin to tell now before long. . . . Send me *instantly* 50 Marion. This work begins to be in much demand.

*L. & F. Vol. 19.*BALT^o Ap. 4, 1817.

DEAR SIR — . . . One Gentleman here, connected with the Tinnars assur^d me he cou'd sell 500 doz. of the Pamph^{ts}. I begg^d you to send me 100 Doz. only, assorted. I hop^d to meet letters here, from you relative to the Campaign to the South, — Hunter's, Coxe's, &^e. &^e. — Also 6 Melish^s Maps — 50 Marion — 50 to 100 Caricatures. I feel persuaded that the Washington, Franklin, Marion & Pamph^{ts}. trade w^d make you a great deal if properly got under weigh . . .

*L. & F. Vol. 19.*BALT^o. Apr. 5. [18]17.

DEAR SIR — . . . Last year I left at this place, perhaps, 100 sub^s for Marion *unsupplied*, & about 50 more for Wash. & Franklin. I have some of these latter, and had Marion come on I sh^d. have collected something on those articles. I am all impatient to know in what forewardness, Coxe, Hunter &c. are for my starting. If you cou'd get Mr. Charles to

¹ A village of Carroll County, Md., 40 miles northwest of Baltimore.

² Weems' plan as follows was never carried out so far as I know: 'Proposals of M. L. Weems, for Printing by Subscription the Lives of George Washington, Doctor Franklin, and General

Marion. That Glorious Trio of American Worthies . . . in three separate volumes . . . for one dollar each . . . ' *Martinsburgh Gazette* (Virginia), July 10, 1817, AAS.; *Franklin Repository* (Chambersburg), Nov. 25, 1817, FROF.

erase those miserable inscriptions on the grand Caricature & put *some handsome* in their places, also add "Choice accompaniment for the Drunkard's Looking Glass," or "Weems's Drunkards Looking," we might sell a number.

L. & F. Vol. 19.

BALT^o. Ap. 8, 1817.

D^r. SIR — . . . People wont buy the Dissuasives.¹ I am rather sorry you put my name to 'em. Write to me by *return of mail*. Time, all PRECIOUS time is wearing away. And I'm doing nothing!! Had I not better go on to Dumfries? Or do you want me to wait here for the Specimens to come on? I w^d God you could have had business here worth coming for. We might have talk^d over a very extensive plan of scattering the Pamph^{ts}. I told you that one man here, who is connected or acquainted with the Tinnens &c will undertake to sell 500 Doz. provided 6 pr Cent cou'd be given him besides the 20 to the Purchaser. Tho' I am afraid that as the Booksellers are in the habit of giving much more than the Tinnens w^d hardly undertake for so small a premium as 20. But if you could let ME establish *small & perfectly safe stores* of those 4 books only, i.e. Wash. Frank. & Marion & the Pamph^t. an immensity might be sold in the year. I put 10 Doz. at a GROG SHOP, here 3 weeks ago and every one of them are sold already! I put numbers at Tavern's & they hardly ever fail of selling. The times require all the Antidot^{es} to Drunkenness, Gambling &c &c. And I know you wish to do good. Write to me, I PRAY YOU, INSTANTLY & FULLY.

I assure you that by proper management we may do wonders with these pamphlets &c.

Preachers & Parents & Legislators will rise up in behalf of them.

¹ *A Calm Dissuasive against Intemperance; or, An Awful View of the Horrors and Miseries of Drunkenness.* Originally Published in Connecticut. Philadelphia: Printed for Mason L.

Weems, 1816 (*Bibliography*, title 240). Containing nothing by Weems, who lent his name merely for its selling value.

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LETTERS

[To M. CAREY & SON¹]

L. & F. Vol. 19.

BALT^o. Ap. 12, 1817.

DEAR SIRS, Tis a sad thing to lose so much time. Had the Box of Pamphlets, Maps, Specimens & all the glorious circumstance of our future Wars but been here 5 days ago I might have saved all that time. However tis some comfort to see y^r Royal Quarto Prints. they are “*charming*” improvements on the little *Democratic* things that went before them. O had I but a light gigg & volant horse with a quantum sufficit of these specimens I think that, Deo adjuvant, I sh^d cut out work for you for some years to come. In three hours, Glory to God, I hope to quit Balt^o. but Elijah is here. . . .

Pray let me know in your next to Dumfries, where I am now going after an absence of 3 months, to rest myself a few days, waiting for sailing orders, specimens &c &c. I say let me know how many pamph^{ts}. you have on hand, for I think we had better give our attention more to those pamph^{ts}. as they may be run to infinite advantage with the Bibles, Hunter &c &c. I repeat that now that the plan is entirely alter^d from the creeping & precarious vending to the Quick & sure subscribing plan we ought to alter the mode of travelling. I begg^d you to get from D^r. Abercrombie, D^r. Staughton, & D^r Ja, Wilson, a short pithy commendation of Hunter, I have a fine one from M^{rs}. Maddison & from Doct^r Holcombe & from a famous Quaker here. Some to whom I have spoken about Hunter are eager to subscribe. My hopes of Hunter are very sanguine. If you w^d but turn y^r attention more to the Pamph^{ts}, getting many *good Caricatures*, & I also going over them again & working them up to a good fix, much might be done.

Turn.

Write to Dumfries.

Waiting for the box of Maps & other impediments — I dont start till this morni^{ng} Monday the 14.

If I got a gig (suppose) sh^d we keep the carriage² I rejoice at the thought of the Sporting Magazine. The truth is you ought instantly to

¹ This is the first letter thus addressed, after H. C. Carey became his father's partner.

² See miscellaneous items in *Addenda*.

give me wings to fly to all the Southern Nabobs. You may make this an immensely interesting thing to the Grandees of Pleasure — far better than the European.

L. & F. Vol. 19.

DUMFRIES. Ap. 20, 1817.

DEAR SIRs — Yours of date illegible because destroy^d by the sealing is before me.

You cannot feel more uneasy than I do at the wretched delays of business. But still I feel happy again at thought that when we get fairly under weigh we shall not stop in a hurry. God knows how things may turn out but I am sanguine. As to Davies, I have a great many subscrib^d for in 2 or 3 of the Counties of Virginia that trade to PETERSBURG. If you cou^d send on, 60 or 70 Copies, pack^d up in strong paper twin^d, or rather in thin Candle boxes, 10 in a box, & the whole inclos^d in *one* case directed to the Rev^d Mr. Campbell or to John Grammar, Petersburg, I shou^d soon convert them into cash. As you have Washington, Franklin, Marion, & the Pamph^{ts}. on hand & with trifling expense can get them to market, you might find it greatly to your interest to put 10 of each of these into thin candle boxes, & 10 or a dozen into a large case. I cou^d easily place these ad captandum pieces into proper hands who w^d soon convert them into money. . . .

As to Jesse he has been at home anxiously waiting for something to meet the eagerness of his spirits. As I can take one short trip very well without him, I have thoughts of sending him on to you for a full supply of such specimens &c. as you may not be able to convey by private hand. By taking with him a Copy of the bible he can get subscribers enough in the towns & villages to defray all his trouble & expense. The bibles he can deliver as he returns with his gig. You may have some 50 or 100 of all the Looking Glass engravings ready for him to bring on to complete our show bills. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 19.

DUMFRIES Ap. 24, — [18]17

DEAR SIRs — 16 of the Specimens for Hunter are almost this hour arrived. The first engraving is beautiful.¹ The 2^d but so so. Rachel

¹ For notes on these engravings, see *Bibliography*, title 253.

walking in her sleep! I don't wonder that Jacob stares as he does. The artist may afford, I think, to mend that *gratis*. I agree the year thus far, "has dragg^d on miserably." But I am all hope that we shall come out well yet. What do you think of my following plan. — dashing away at once thro' Fredericksb^g, to Richmond, Petersb^g., Norfolk, Newburn, Wilmington, Charleston, Augusta & back thro' Columbia, Camden, . . . [torn] &^c. &^c. to Virg^a — getting subscribers for an elegant Bible, Hunter, Coxe, Map, & Davies? In case you approbate this plan, will it not be adviseable to send me on the Pamphlets, with Washington, Franklin & Marion in the following style — viz. 20 of each variety, i.e. 100, of the Pamphlets — 6 Wash. 6 Frank. & 6 Marion in a box and from 6 to 12 of those little thin boxes in one large light *case*? . . .

'Tis true I cou'd sell a vast many of these pamphlets myself, but while we have so many ponderous publications ready it seems horrible to be neglecting them for paltry pamphlets. And yet Experience has taught that great quantities of these latter may be sold, perhaps as many as w^d half defray all charges on my account i.e. my S[*alary*?]. Yes, I really believe that if they were a little more finished & accompanied with some more engravings & a SHOW BILL with striking devices & staring pictures, the sales w^d defray half of all my cost to you. I pray you revolve this matter with your customary comprehensiveness. From your Wealth & Industry & my activity & zeal, I think we may fairly infer that Great things might be done. It only requires that we shoud get into the right way. If you do not think the above plan so eligible, what think you of the following Shall I come on to Balt^c. & subscriptioneer like a Hero for Hunter, Coxe & Davies (the Bible is there done over) and taking the steamboat dash on to Norfolk, thence to Richmond & Petersburg & on to Charleston? Or shall I take my stage and dash on from County to County Court house taking the Courts as they occur, & still working to the South? And will you at all fit points & resting places of my orbit meet me with Pamphlets & W & F & Marion? In short I intreat you to take this affair into consideration, *instantly* & let me know what course I shall pursue. God knows, all I want is to do something good for you, for myself & for the Public. Untill y^r last I did not know that y^r Royal Bible is to contain but 10 or 15 plates. I w^d it had contain^d more But I hope great things from it. All I DREAD is, that you will not give me SPECIMENS

enough. In 10 days there will be a grand meeting of the Episcopal Clergy, with Bishop Moore at their head. If I had but specimens sufficient I cou'd do good things. O when shall I have all things right? I send you a *parvum in multo*, some of your trash. I mean got for *yr books*. You may do something with it. I cannot.

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 19.

[*Dumfries, n.d. after Ap. 24, 1817.*]

M. CAREY ESQ^r., Yesterday I ask^d you for some old chaffy papers for my Nocturnal scriblications. You gave me in y^r hurry, I suppose, a quire of good paper. I return it. I need not commend to y^r friendly attention my son Jesse. You are a father — and he is young — very young & utterly inexperienc^d. You will find him very active when put about anything that he understands.

As to Hunter, I count on good things from it. Much depends on touching the feelings of the Public. You will agree with me that the 4 plates you give me to start with shou'd be *elegant*. All, all, depends on this. by giving 50 or 60\$ apiece M^r. Designer & Engraver will give you something that will ensure a splendid Success. A success that will abundantly repay you the trifling difference of cost.

As to DAVIES, I was never made more unhappy about such a trifle. Pomeroy wrote to me 4 weeks ago & expects an answer. I pray you write to him this moment tell him that you will take the work at 90 days.

Deo Judice I thought, untill he wrote to me, that all that little matter was settled. With proper management, i.e. due attention to me, vigorous cooperation with me, we may in future, do GREAT THINGS — tis the wish of my soul both on y^r. account & the Public and why sh^d such a trifle as Davies (the most saleable of all sermons) now create any more painful feelings to yours

D^r. Sir

turn

I conjure you to write this hour to Pomeroy, Printer of Davies.
yr. friend

You cannot be too attentive to the Designs & Engravings for Hunter, also Relig. O. B. However this latter is now more forward.

1817]

LETTERS

[To M. CAREY & SON]

L. & F. Vol. 19.

DUMFRIES Ap. 25, 1817.

DEAR SIRs — . . . This is the “LAST OF OUR FIELDS”!! i. e. This year is to decide whether the Fates have determin^d that we are to do any thing together or not. *ergo* let us fret no more. *quid verbis?* I am wretched for lack of *materials* i.e. Specimens & ORDERS. I have been waiting for these. The moment I get them I start. I w^d advise by all means to send me small boxes of Pamphlets, Washington, Franklin, & Marion. i.e. 20 of each [*of*] the 5 Pamphlets, & 6 of W. F. & Marion (each) with a show bill & pictures (si possible) I am abundantly satisfied that these Pamphlets—Wash. F. & Marion—with Hunter, Coxe, Davies & Bible will furnish work & bread enough for me all the days of my life. *Ergo* I only want you to digest the plan, give me *sufficiently* of *Specimens* & Orders & if we succeed not it will be time for us to quit.

Write to ME BY RETURN OF MAIL. I think you put more print in the Specimen for Hunter than need be. 8 pages I sh^d have thought enough. I am afraid Jesse will desert us. However it is likely I shall give you a long pull, a strong pull & a pull all together.

[To MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 19.

DUMFRIES — Ap. 30 — [18]17.

DEAR SIR — . . . In the morning or the next, at any rate, I set out to see you — but with rather a heavy heart. Philad^a is a large bush to be sure but it has been so thresh^d & slash^d by a thousand hungry & ravenous Adventurers that if I can but start one solitary Buck in each street I shall have good luck. My trip will not however be altogether without its satisfactions & perhaps great advantages. Good opportunity will be afforded for maturing plans of our future operations; to which my eyes are and ever have been turn^d with all the Confidence of Hope. It may take months to get into the right track, but a right track there most assuredly is, wherein such Wealth & Industry as yours & such zeal as mine may reap a glorious harvest. But mind I tell you that Philadelphia & N York will not be our Marengo or Austerlitz. As we now heartily concur that when on the Cruising ground we may as well try a shot at 2

Galleons as one, you will do well to have [*made for?*] me a handsome Subscription book, in Quarto, with port holes for several pieces of heavy artillery. Washington, Franklin, & Marion may do on the poop as Grasshoppers. I wish you could get from Bishop White, Abercrombie & Staughton some handsome flourishes about Hunter. I am still in high hopes that within 15 months, as I told Henry, from the moment I start, I shall be enabled to sell 10,000 Dollars worth of that work. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 19.

DUMFRIES May 1, 1817.

DEAR SIR— . . . So that I am clearly of the opinion that it were better for me to act on yr. first plan, i.e Dash thro' Philadelphia & the N. Jersey towns to N. York with the Bible & Map &c. &c. Tho' not very promising, yet something may be done, and at any rate the experiment will have been made & consequently no ground left for dissatisfaction & self reproach. Elijah comes on with me to Balt^o. and is willing to make full trial there for the Map, while I am engaged at Philad^a & N. York. If you feel a disposition to counteract this plan, please meet me with a letter at Balt^o. Otherwise I shall hasten on to Phila^d & N. Y. agreeably to yr first & I think better plan, for the Bible I am certain will do nothing in Balt^o. But whatever be the success in these oft reap^d & glean^d northern towns I am very confident that great things may be done in the extensive & wealthy Countries of the South. . . .

I wrote to my nephew James Weems¹ to send my Gigg to Alexand^a by water. It were better to forbid it as I may want the gigg both to travel & distribute.

¹ Capt. William Weems' second wife was Nancy Ewell, daughter of Col. James Ewell. One of their sons was James Ewell Weems, who is the only nephew of this name found in *Hayden's Genealogies*, p. 340, LC.

1817]

LETTERS

[ELIJAH WEEMS TO MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 19.

DUMFRIES, May 2^d 1817.

SIR, . . . My uncle informs me he will not be in want of the carriage & horses for two or three months — If you will let me have them when I go to the South — I feel certain it will enable me to sell such a number of books of those in Petersburg as to enable me to send you on \$500, before the middle of next month, which I will certainly do if I collect it. the carriage & horses I will take good care with [*sic*] and return them when call^d for —

Yours &c.

My horse is sick and not good for much.

DUMFRIES, May 3rd 1817.

DEAR SIR. Unexpected to me Uncle leaves here this morning for Phil^a. It therefore will not be in my power to go with him as I expected, but will remain untill Monday to attend the Court in this place and on Tuesday I will go to Fredericksburg where the grand Convention of the Clergy of this State meets, and will endeavor to do the best I can. . . .

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 22.

PHILAD^a May 6, 1817.

DEAR SIR —

. . .

- 500 Pamphlets assorted, i.e. 100 each
- 60 Wash. Franklin & Marion assorted, i.e. 20 each.
- 12 Caricatures &
- 5 Show bills with pictures on paste board.

. . . As there are but few large towns in Virginia, I intend the moment after running thro them which I shall do [*blank*] to fly into the Country to the Court houses & collect subscriptions. But as I cannot apply personally to more than a tythe of the Population, I mean to call in Auxilliaries of the RIGHT CHARACTER, whom I shall press to do all in their power immediately, with promise of getting their Books at the first or 2^d Court following. By acting vigorously on this one point I hope that, besides what I may do myself, I shall have from 5 to 10 boxes of the Bibles in request at the Court-houses where I shall attend in person. And

if instead of packing Washington, Franklin and Marion with pamphlets en masse, you w^d separate them into snug cargoes say

50 Washington.

50 Franklin,

50 Marion

120 Pamphlets assorted i,e 24 each with 2 show bills, pictured & pasteboarded,

and all in one box; & 5 to 10 of these boxes sent to each Seaport, ready at my order to be sent into the country to the County towns & Courthouses. I say, were small cargoes of these few articles, separately box'd, sent up to my order to the County Court houses, they w^d speedily be converted into cash by young gentlemen previously furnish^d with proposals & also instructed to call on my agents at the County towns for their copies — paying regularly for them as they recieve them. I am fully persuaded, and I speak now as a man of long experience that were I properly furnish^d to this business, (subscriptioneering myself as also the fittest characters subscriptioneering with me) I cou'd in one 12 month's time, have the worthiest characters in every County in Virginia co-operating with me in circulating The Bibles — Washington — Franklin — Marion — The Pamphlets — with Hunter, Coxe & Sporting Magazine. But if you suspect that the vigorous prosecution of this plan wou'd be apt to alarm the Booksellers & cause them to set their faces against you to the harm or perhaps ruin of your pleasant & profitable Bible business God forbid I shou'd be such a villain as to advise you to continue it.

[*Unsigned.*]

L. & F. Vol. 19.

May 6. 1817.

DEAR SIR — Lest the plan agreed on last night sh^d be lost with all its comforting splendors; and Chaos & old night of fear & trouble sh^d return, I beg leave to leave this notice in writing — [“]*scripta litera manet.*” The understanding on my part is that I am to go as fast as a heavy carriage and bad roads over stones & mountains will allow, to Winchester, Martinsbg &c. &c. which from paucity of Inhabitants & those lately depredated by Sigⁿ. Collins & Sons, can make no great contributions,

and there do what I can. Thence I shall proceed to the little County towns, alias Courthouses, availing myself of the Sessions, and then & there do what I can in our way. But over and above my *own exertions*, I mean to turn my eyes, & if I had as many of them and as bright as ever Argus himself had, most devoutly sh^d they be turn^{ed} to the following polar star of our hopes. viz. I To select the most wealthy, the most honorable & the most Influential Citizens of each County as Auxilliaries.

II. To put these up to the *tug point* long & strong, by every consideration well press^d home of Public Good & Private gain.

III. To give them assurances from *you*, and authorize them to give assurances to *their Friends*, that the books shall be ready at their respective Court houses on such & such days, *positively*

IV. To appoint at each Court house, some most honest & steady Characters as Agents, to recieve the books, and thereunto, to write & send (by wagons trading constantly thither) to choice friends of the most approv^d character in the Seaports with whom they are to be deposited by you, and who also shall engage to forward them to the aforesaid Agents.

V. To have it fully express^d & understood all around, by *you*, by *me*, by the *Auxillaries* & by the *Agents*, that the Books are to be at such & such *Courthouses*, on *such* & *such days* of *Session*, positively, where the Auxillaries are to attend and where they are to be met & to be cooperated with by M. L. Weems in the distribution of the books & in the gladsome Collection of the monies which shall be forwarded with all fidelity & haste to M. Carey & Son.

'Tis matter of inexpressible mortification to me that, tho' the profits on them are, *acknowledgedly* most amazing, you sh^d yet be so backward to send the Looking Glasses among the D[*runkar*]^{ds}, Gamblers, &c &c of S. Carolina, Georgia &c &c. Pray think of this.

L. & F. Vol. 19.

[*N.d. after May 6, 1817.*]

DR. SIR — Many a clever fellow after having been Sisypheus like, nearly crippled three or four times by the cursed rolling back of the stone, has at last got it upon the hill and found it a Diamond. Whether you & I shall ever crow over such an event as this, God only knows. 'Tis at any

rate high time. At least, we think so, To insure this, it strikes me that we shou'd *instantly* call our respective quotas into full operation. As to mine, which is scarcely anything more than Industry, you may depend, it shall not be wanting. God knows that I often & deeply deplore that I ever had any hand, tho' involuntarily, in those many & grievous losses you have sustain^d with me. And God also knows that it is most sincerely my wish that at the close of our present engagement you sh^d say with a glad countenance "well I have now nearly made up for all my old misfortunes" I doubt not that similar impressions are on y^r mind with respect to me. Twenty long years have I toiled in your service and made what some w^d look on as *nothing*. But I speak not about myself. I am satisfied, and very grateful for the little success (as some may call it) that I have had. "Hope springs immortal in the human breast," and that now leads [*me*] to forget the past & look forward with bright eyes to better things and days together . . .

. . . I pray you to talk to my son. Remind him of his great advantages — His Youth — the fair opportunities that he now is favor^d with; beginning in my company & under your patronage — the importance of laying now a grand foundation for character, self approbation & Wealth. I believe that Marion, Franklin and the Pamphlets if quickly printed & neatly as you say, will defray a large part of all that you are to pay me. Jesse will do a great deal while I am pushing the Bible. In three weeks, I think it was, he collected 470 Doll^s. besides paying all expences. What may he not do, in the course of the year, if properly supported by you in these books? Mason,¹ the wood Engraver in Norris alley is retouch^s one of the plates for the Drunkard. Pray look at it — I know you will do all you can to give the pamphlets an *ad captandum* — Some curious dashes on the outsides —

¹ William Mason, listed at 2 Norris's Alley in the *Philadelphia Directory*, 1814. By 1817 his address is given as 11 S. 4th Street. He is probably the William Mason referred to in *A History*

of the Rise and Progress of The Arts of Design in the United States, by William Dunlap, Boston, 1918, Vol. II, pp. 383-384, LC.

L. & F. Vol. 19.

CHESAPEAKE STEAMBOAT May 7, 1817

DEAR SIR. I am very glad that Henry is getting to see my plan in a way of complacency. Some thing remains to be added to it. If we had but a keg of wine we sh^d do well to tap it at once at the bottom as knowing we sh^d soon have to run it dry. But the Proprietors of an Heidelberg Ton have nothing to do with the *dregs*. This Country is very large; Cream to an immense extent lies on its surface. See with what effect I went on while the books were sent me, to collect the cream off the small district which I cultivated last year in Pennsylv^a. and see also the evil of churning the blue milk, of draining the dregs. O had I but a *light light* gigg, & horses twain of nimble foot (*one to rest & relieve*) what might I not do in this goodly cream gathering business, especially having as you have so vast a bowl of rich American milk to work on? See the Map —

Dumfries my centre. A. B. C. D. &c. stand for counties —

		Q.	P.		O.	N.	M.
		R.					
	S.						
T.							
	F.	G.	H.		I.	K.	L.
E.							
			V.	W.	X.	Y.	
	D.						
		C.					
			B.				
				A.		Z.	
				(Dumfries)			

I set out from Dumfries, County A comes first. Is Court sitting? I make it a point to fall in with it. I get what subscript^{ns} I can, I get some of the Principal ones of the County to take papers. I tell them when i.e on w^t. day the books are, on a *moral certainty*, to be there. I hasten to County B. if Court is *not sitting* I leave in the post office Subⁿ papers for several of the CHOICE ONES of the county & fly to County C. & County D &c. &c. — acting in the same way and giving positive

PROMISES OF THE BOOKS at such or such ensuing Courts — having so made my arrangements as to be there *myself or by my son*. In the name of Heaven what is there of the improbable in all this? Is there not so much of Interest in the Bible to the grave and in the Sportg Magaz. to the gay as to insure, on *moral grounds*, a very general cooperation of Influential Men as Agents, & of their numerous friends as Patrons? And as our Country is an Heidelberg ton why sh^d we tap to the dregs & lose our time (as of late) in draining? No for God's sake let us take the rich top i.e. the Divine Nectar, that will flow like the sapfull "Arabian trees their *precious gums*." But how is this to be done while I am sent creeping about in a heavy New Jersey wagon that you KNOW was constructed when the former miserable old plan was before us. I have not a doubt on my mind that a light gigg w^d make a difference of *several thousand dollars* to you in the year, in sub^s. by *myself & agents*, to say nothing of what might be done by leaving in PROPER HANDS to sell, the Pamphlets with a few Wash. Frank. & Marion. I hope you see this affair in the same light. And so seeing, you will I hope instantly give me fair play. In short 'tis agreed that this is to be our last Experiment. A 12 month is I believe fix^d on as the dernier moment of trial. If in that time we see nothing of that El Dorado, that gold coast we have so long been look^g. after & so anxiously, I am content to be thrown overboard and the enterprize abandon'd for ever.

[*Unsigned.*]

L. & F. Vol. 19.

DUMFRIES. May 14. 1817

DEAR SIR Yours of the 10 & 12 are just rec^d. I have been looking out prodigiously for a gig, but can't get one yet. Have *borrow^d* one, with which I shall set out morning after tomorrow even tho' my Eldest & most favorite daughter, Susan, who is now dangerously ill, *sh^d be no better*. . . .

I have got another agent for you on the Elijah plan, i.e *barely to take good subscriptions*. This Gentlemen is Mr. Bertrand Ewell, brother to Dr. James of Med[*ical*]. Companion memory. 15 years ago this same M^r. Bertrand was as conceited a Virginia Fop as ever squeezed himself out at the little end of a horn. Adversity has now completely revolu-

tionized him. With an humble Tackey¹ & Carry-all he now sells Med. Companions for his brother James, from Court to Court. I have engaged him, *barely to get subscriptions* — to select a trustworthy character at each Courthouse to *receive* the boxes & keep them for myself or Jesse to deliver — to advertise you of his success, the name of the County Court Agent, the Seaport, his friend there to convey the box &c. &c. Jesse starts day after tomorrow, to finish his bible business & Law books, make collections &c &c. for you in the southern parts of the state. This will take him 5 to 6 weeks. On his return he says he shall be willing to exonerate you from your 2 Dollar pr day allowance & the stage establishment provided you give him a *light cheap sulky for dispatch in following myself*, Elijah & Bertrand, and that he will be content with 5 pr Cent for delivering for us & all other Subscriptioners — & the usual allowance for all that he gets subscrib^d to himself. For my part, knowing as I do that Dispatch is Everything I have no doubt but you may find it greatly y^r interest to drop the heavy stage & substitute a light sulky or single gig — of the *lightest* kind. It is understood that neither Elijah, nor Bertrand is to deliver a book, nor indeed myself, if Jesse can do it for me. Jesse begs you w^d write immediately to him, as at *Richmond*, where he will soon be. He has shewn himself admirable at distributing books. Nothing but Death shall keep me after tomorrow. And I hope in 4 weeks from date to have all things in readiness to say “Go” in our race for Hunter.

‘Parson Weems officiated at marriage of Col. Wm. Gerard Chandler Fowke Phillips.’ May 14, 1817.

Virginia Genealogies, William Hayden, p. 161.

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 19.

CULPEPPER. May 20, 1817.

DEAR SIR, Got here yesterday on the Cruising ground — made a good many prizes already — Shou’d have made my fortune had not the Hessian fly rais^d such a fright among the Planters. . . .

[*Unsigned.*]

¹ Tackey, a tough native horse of small size.

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CHARLESTOWN May 27, 1817

DEAR SIR — . . . I hope soon to get my gigg, & an easy one, for this old carry-all kills me up. . . .

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WINCHESTER June 3, 1817

DEAR SIR — I am sorry you sh^d have made such a wide difference in the soils given to Elijah & to me — to him a Goshen to me an Arabia deserta. However, thank God, I hope to do something for you. I have been out 14 days, & with an old horse, bad carriage, & rocky mountains to traverse, yet I have gotten

for the maps	500 Doll ^s
for the Bible, only	300
for Wash. F. & Marion	200

. . . I set out tomorrow, working homewards but still trying to do something. O that I had a gigg!! Hope soon to be where I can get one. . . .

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DUMFRIES. June 12, 1817.

DEAR SIR — . . . This map may be made a great thing to you for *ready money* if you can but get the right from Melish. You are giving me a good salary, some of which is now due & more will be due. But knowg y^r want of money I shall be tender on that article, tho', as I believe you well know, neither myself nor Family have ever yet had the comforts of life. The substitute I propose is, that instead of money, you let me have books — not for me to *sell*! No not one w^d I willingly be delay^d & troubled with — but to be sent as I may order and on the cash price as you w^d sell to Tom. Dick or Harry, i, e 33 1/3 on 6 months & some disc^t for cash, or, tho' to you the same as cash, for 30 pr cent deliver^d to any of our Seaports, &c, you to have nothing more to do with them forever. What I sh^d chiefly want w^d be such articles as you have an abundance of, viz. School books. For fear of a misunderstanding that might excite even a momentary frown on y^r brow, I beg to repeat that this is an

affair entirely distinct from our FIX^d subscriptioneering & distributing business, and to be managed altogether by here & there an honest Merch^t in a town or village where I spend the night, and who is, at my *risk* and perhaps loss to sell for me. I am sorry that Elijah, to whom you consign^d the business of settling up the old stores, has slur^d it over so carelessly.

. . . To prevent mortifying delays and disappointments of books I pray you now at the commencement of this new start, to beg in a most particular & earnest manner to beg the Gentlemen mention^d by me to you, to speak to several waggoners, going to the places also mention^d, to call for the boxes. One or even two wagons may promise and yet disappoint. This one has engag^d a *full load* — that is taken up to go on a different course &c &c. Pray, beg that several waggoners be spoken to. This is an important thing. If we can allow a little time to get this enterprize under weigh, I have no doubt of its success ultimately. As to Davies, in my opinion the Bibles, Maps & Hunter are so exceedingly better entitled (from their bulk) to your attention, that except in the way of Methodist, Baptist & Presbyterian Preaches & Elders aiding to get subscript^s, we cannot do very much with it, yet awhile. Had I nothing more ponderous & important to attend to I sh^d soon clear the decks of Davies: and I hope the Agency just mentioned will not let it long be on hand. . . .

Were this affair conducted as it ought to be, i, e one or two Super Royal show bills given me to set up at Court houses & to put into the hands of Lawyers &c &c notifying that Maps of every description, Atlases, Globes, Law books, Medical, Theological, Novels, Histories &c &c w^d be furnish^d at such a court day, we might do a great deal.

L. & F. Vol. 19.

[N.d. after June 12, 1817.]

By all that comfort which Men of sensibility feel even under disappointment when conscious that they gave the undertaking fair play & every chance it *could* have, I say I conjure you to give me INSTANTLY a LIGHT CHEAP gig and HORSE. It were impudence in me even to think of

your purchases of other things however costly; but certainly I may be permitted, even by yourself, to let a few hairs rise on my head when I think of 20 or 30,000 Doll^s for one house & 15 or 20,000 for another, and yet 2 or 300 withheld from an enterprize so goodly in appearance and where my Pride of Character and your own Interest and perhaps very importantly too, are so nearly & for the last time at stake. In a word all I want is a FAIR TRIAL. If the thing do not succeed you will I trust find me just as ready to abandon it as yourself. You were witness to the sang froid which I manifested t'other day when the discontinuance of it was mention^d. And you know that if I have any one virtue on earth it is a little of Sincerity, —

If, as you propose, Jesse is to follow me, i.e attend from Courthouse to Courthouse, to meet my own & the sub^s of all my agents, and to supply and collect monies, can he, with *y^r. approbation* do this on horseback? If so, I shall not want a horse. The day after tomorrow hope to be at Dumfries. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 22.

DUMFRIES July 1. 1817.

DEAR SIR — . . . I have good ground to hope that Coxe will do admirably by Hye. I have just gotten me a light gig: so that the moment Jesse, who is still out with the horses, returns, I hope to dash off at a good speed. . . . Franklin is by no means in the right sailing trim. I have a small edition printing for you,¹ which will I hope please you a good deal tho' still far short of what that book may be — it will be ready by Christmass. I cannot lose sight of the “religious Olive branch.” Were you but to make it a School Duod^o., at a dollar, it w^d obtain a spread & render a service incalculable. . . .

Yours respectfully

L. & F. Vol. 19.

DUMFRIES, July 10, 1817

DEAR SIR. . . . I don't see the end of our embarrassments & vexations. All our losses of time & money last year arose simply from my

¹ Probably the Hagerstown edition of 1818 (*Bibliography, title 133*).

not fixing on proper persons in the country, who sh^d be daily directing the wagons to call at our places of deposit in the Seaports. Against this great evil I have now taken the proper precaution: and you have the names of proper persons. But now there is almost a moral certainty of disappointment from another quarter. Five weeks ago I gave you those names (agents) with plainest information that the Courts w^d begin their Session in Aug. That period is within 20 days. Land & water carriage with all their delays intervenes, and yet by y^r last letter they were not shipp^d, for Winchester — the first place of operation, till the 5 July — and then only *one half* & less of the maps! how discouraging! I told *you also* that, to fill up the interval, from 3 or 4 weeks ago to my commencement in August, I wou^d by all means dash on to Richmond, Williamsburg, etc. and so take, as I told you, my rout up by Staunton to Winchester — for I had hopes that, from what Elijah told me, you had sent on an abundance of maps. But behold only 36 maps have been sent, out of, as Elijah says, 156! God knows how all these things are to end. You give me a large salary but large as it is, it might be made comparatively small thro' my industry if properly seconded. But otherwise it will *be* a losing bargain to us *both*. I verily hope that when things come to be in proper fix, which I always knew w^d take time, and if properly aided, I shou^d make as much nearly by my commissions as by my salary but as it is I shall derive nothing from this other source. . . .

I think it adviseable by all means that you set me out thro all the Southern states, in my *gig* — to be *follow^d by Jesse* in the stage. With the different Bibles, Coxe, Hunter, sports magazine, Davies, Melish, I feel confident that Great things may be done. And if with these, we could have Washington, Franklin, & Marion, & the Looking Glasses placed, as we all along agreed, in proper places & hands, and with good show bills a world of money might be made. This is my view of what by patient & persevering Industry on my part & a promptitude & vigilance to execute on yours, may be crown^d with brilliant success. But from the specimens for a long time past, I seem to have my fears that you have too much *weightier* business on hand to attend to this with full effect. As to Coxe, but little has been done in it yet, owing to the chilling nudity of the Prospectus. This Department of Rural Economy is not thought of in this Tobacco & Corn Country. An high colour'd prospectus of the

advantages with a recommendation by some greatly popular characters wd, I thought be necessary. Judge Washington has given me one, which I shall print.¹ As to Hunter, Bishop Moore's recommendation will be all important in this state. I am hourly waiting for it, which he promis^d to give with the recommendations of all the Dignified clergy at the Convention in New York; I expect *it hourly*. It w^d be of great help to us to have a good keen French looking likeness of Marion. I begg^d you to send it on — 50 of that — with 30 of Wash. & 30 of Franklin, These things being all prepar^d. & the distributions of the present sub^s. (4.000\$) being ended, I purpose to dash & do [*sic*] I hope what will prove a dawn at least of that day which we have long look^d for — & which I think is destin^d to rise.

With respect to Elijah, will it not be well to put him [*at*] getting sub^s.? He is active in a high degree. But his part ought to be mark^d out distinct from mine. My life is render^d very unhappy to me by not hav^g things done for me so as to ensure success & universal satisfaction.

Coming down in the steamboat I set the Passengers areading — got to the trifling amount inclos^d. As a Trader to all parts you can do something with it. You talk^d about sending me a gigg by water but that won't do. I fear it will not be light enough. I want something very cheap, very light & *airy for expedition*. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 22.

DUMFRIES July 20. 1817.

D^r SIR — . . . As to Coxe I have gotten from Judge Washington & Gen^l John Mason & shortly from M^r. Jefferson & M^r Madison expect those commendations that will greatly aid that work. From Bishop Moore I shall obtain in addition to what I already have, such commendations as will do I trust great services to the cause of Hunter. In a little time I want to have everything in a good fix, and then with my path unobstructed I hope to make a progress that will be mutually agreeable. . . .

¹ Not found by me.

NB. If I had but a good figure for Marion, I sh^d be complete, especially if you w^d send me the large show bills that are at the little Bookbinders below the drawbridge. I mean the showbills with the pictures taken from the Looking glasses, — I am greatly mortified that the Maps desired are sent in such small quantities. This affair of scrimping me up to a tour to [a] few little towns about Winchester & then withholding much of what was *order^d* is a sad sad outset.

L. & F. Vol. 22.

DUMFRIES, July 22, 1817

DEAR SIR — . . . As to Hunter & Coxe, little has yet been done for them, and all owing to their being issued upon the world, as young Females into Company, without any Respectable Character saying one solitary word in their favor. I shall soon get the proper Patronage in the way of High Authorities assuring the American People that Coxe is the very man to teach them the blessed art to enrich their Gardens & orchards with the finest fruits on earth. This will go a great way to a quick and extensive circulation of his book. You shall hear from me e're long.

. . . How I am to go to these towns with scarce half the supply of Maps I know not.

L. & F. Vol. 22.

DUMFRIES, July 30, 1817

D^r. SIR — . . . When I follow^d my own plans; for example, when instead of taking a small patch to cultivate & gather the fruits inconveniently, I dash^d out on a large field, tho most unpromising — as among the Dutch of Pennsylvania, you saw I got 8.000\$ subscrib^d for there in as many months. Let that suffice to shew, what I could do, Deo adjuvante — if left to myself. And now that I have got the Recommendations for Hunter & Coxe if I cou^d but be allow^d to start & go on as I plann^d & settl^d with you — [*1st lacking*] — 2^d to take ALL THE orders I cou^d. — 3^d. to call in a great number of Agents to be disposing of W. F. Marion & the Pamphlets — 4th to push the Bibles, Davies, Map, & Hunter & Coxe — I am as positive as I can be of anything that I sh^d in 3 months time be commencing sales at the rate of 20.000 Doll^s pr. an. The Country

is large; — the Population and passion for reading rapidly increasing — my acquaintance extensive — my Zeal undiminish^d and everything as favorable as could be wish^d to insure an IMMENSE BUSINESS, if you cou^d but be persuaded to let me start with the right foot foremost. If this could be done, it w^d be greatly to our interest to cooperate. But if I am to be shackled, not time sufficient to receive the books allow^d — nor half the books sent, and many other destructive mistakes continually made, it will be *greatly to our interest to part*. But wou^d it not be adviseable to make ONE FAIR TRIAL? This I say, because no trial has yet been made according to my plan. You say nothing about the 100\$ I sent about the 22^d. . . .

[To M. CAREY & SON]

L. & F. Vol. 22.

DUMFRIES, Aug. 1, 1817

D^r SIRS — The greatest grief of my life is to see so clearly as I do the fairest chance that heart could desire to make wealth & do great good, and yet this chance never improv^d as it ought to be. Leiper and other quick eyed Scotsmen can send their Riders thro these Southern States, engaging their Rappees & Pigtail & such d—r^d stuff to fit men in all the towns & villages about & after 6 & 9 months will send their Riders again filling their saddle bags with money. And yet you with one hundred & fifty thousand Dollars worth, & means to multiply double & treble that enormous amount, of Primers, Spelling books, Testaments, Arithmetics, School dictionaries, Washingtons, Franklin, Marion, & the Looking Glasses — and yet I say you with this vast amount of these FEW most necessary & most Instructive books can let them lie, great part a dead inactive heap, & all liable to fire, moth & other enemies — And all this under these very eyes of mine that so clearly see the Suicide & the Parricide of such unaccountable doings. But no winter's cloud is darker than your brow at the bare mention of these things, I see that clear enough tho 200 miles off. "*You have tried it! You have tried it!*" I hear you say — and "*Damnation & ruin have been the consequence!*"

I deny that you have ever tried it as it OUGHT to have been — and if not fairly tried, it was no trial at all. Myriads of books I agree were sent,

but they were not, most of them of the right sort, on the contrary they were such as I objected to because I knew they w^d not do. And those that I order'd in many a sad instance were not sent.

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 22.

WASHINGTON Aug. 8, 1817

SIR . . . God knows if we are to go on at this rate we have a dismal prospect. I have receiv^d y^r. letter of the 2^d. You still upbraid me with the *Maps*. That from *constitutional* irritability you sh^d *sometimes speak* rather hastily is not to be wonder^d at. But that you sh^d deliberately write such an act of injustice sickens me with poor Human Nature. In one half a moment I state you the Truth as it stands on the Book of the Recording Angel — you pledged yourself to cooperate with me on a most large and Profitable Book & Map business. Scarcely had I got home before letters came post haste to inform that you had *renounc^d*, RENOUNC^d the Book part, (which was the *Main part*) of the enterprise — and expecting me to dash on with the Map part; the *Collateral* only & smaller part of the enterprise on which I was to get 16 1/3 pr cent while on the Nobler i.e. Book part I was to get 25 pr Cent. And now because I objected to this, looking on it as a very unjust & oppressive change in the undertaking I am reprobated. Now if my statement above is not perfectly accurate, then let me be anathmatiz^d!! Franklin w^d illustrate it in some such way as this “I’ll be d-n-d if I take the calf, Sir,” says Tom, “I’ll be d-m-d if you shan’t Sir,” quoth Dick — “But I wont” — replies Tom — “for I was to have had the kidney fat & the caul fat & the skin; — & here, behold! you have taken all that away.” “True,” rejoins Dick, “I have indeed gutted it of all the fat, but still you shall have the carcase for all that.” Now if M^r. Carey will say I was not to have had a NOBLE BOOK business with the *Maps*, then let my name be ACCURSED. And if M^r. Carey will say that I was to have had a Noble book business with the *Maps*, why will he still revile me for dropping the one when I cou’d not get the other? As to Hunter & Coxe I have told you the reasons over & over again why they have not yet been taken in hand; i e I wanted Popular ad Captandum Recommendations. On our first acquaintance you took me into y^r back room on

Market Street, where you told me of 3.000 copies of Goldsmith's A[ni-mated]. Nature on hand — not a single sub^r. save 100 by a young Hibernian who had gone off with his paper. People knew nothing of the A. Nature & had done nothing to so simple a Subⁿ. paper. At your own instance, I sketch^d. out a Prospectus that gave the People to expect that "Worlds on Worlds inclos^d were to burst upon their Senses," if they w^d but seize the precious moment to subscribe for this marvellous Book. They subscrib^d at such a rate, that my sales (150 copies) in Balt^o. alone, excited y^r astonishment. I wanted something in this way in favor of Hunter & Coxe. You say I ought to have had those Commendations. There we differ. You certainly are the All in All. I am but y^r. Agent. However thro' the Commendations not coming — nothing has yet been done with Hunter & Coxe. You are not to infer that I am tired of these Books. No God forbid. I say now *ab ino picturae* as I have said all along, that the moment I get out the ad Captandum Prospectus of those works I am ready to bend to them as to a grand harvest. In the meantime, little has been *lost*, for this plain reason, more time has been given to Melish, to W. F. & Marion, to the Bible, &c &c in so much that in 6 weeks I got 2.000\$ subscrib^d. to them alone. And but for the error of cramping me in TIME & SPACE I sh^d I believe, have done wonders — as you yourself agree I did in Pennsylv^a. when left to myself . . .

L. & F. Vol. 22.

MILFORD, Aug. 15, 1817.

SIR — . . . Have a Devil of a time of it; owing to the dread that from the lateness of their shipment the Books for Culpepper are not arriv^d. I have been compelled to break my gigg & break myself down by luggage taken from one place to another. Every day convinces me in the most ANGUISHING, TORTURING manner of the misfortune I labour under. From the extent of my acquaintance & the good will of the million on account of my writing the Life of their Washington, Marion, &c &c I cou'd in a little time obtain several hundred Doll^{ars}. of good orders *every week*. My God! what a pity that when so much money might so easily be made that you will not send me the books to the orders. . . .

1817]

LETTERS

L. & F. Vol. 22.

ON THE ROAD TO CULPEPPER Aug. 16, 1817.

SIR . . . Have just receiv^d. by Jesse, from Dumfries your last 4 letters. I feel but little regret that the business is to be abandon^d forever on the 1^s day of Jan^y 1818. Mismanaged as it has been, it is a serious injury to us both. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 22.

HARPERS FERRY Aug. 26. 1817

SIR — . . . I am glad you wish to cut my *tow-rope* & set me *adrift*; for the mortification I am eternally suffering from the looks & speeches of my friends who are disappointed of their books is become intollerable. . . .

At our winding up, Jan^y 1818 you will be in my debt. I was willing to take some books & you were willing to give me them at 33 1/3 disct. But you have not sent them. Please let me hear from you whether you are willing to send them to my order. . . .

Yours, by the next mail

L. & F. Vol. 22.

HARPER'S FERRY Sept. 3^d 1817

SIR — . . . I wish you could instantly advise me by letter to DUMFRIES, what I had better do, — my own plan is to dash to the South on Davies, the Bible — Hunter Coxe & Melish's Maps. . . .

You send no Bachelors with the Looking Glasses!!!

L. & F. Vol. 22.

HARPER'S FERRY, Sep. 3, 1817.

SIR . . . Am this moment setting off for Leesburg & home, having no books nor maps now to deliver to all the clamorous subscribers. 'Tis a sad thing. Most people can't get sub^s. I can't get the books. Shall write soon to you. Marion is rising fast with the People.

L. & F. Vol. 22.

DUMFRIES, Sept. 15, 1817

SIR — . . M^{rs}. Weems has fears that Jesse, if he goes by himself, will contract bad habits, Tobacco & wine. If therefore agreeable to you, we will drop Jesse and his little salary. Now I want y^r attention. Is it not your opinion that I cou'd easily vend as follows.

1000 Melishs' maps @ 10\$	10.000
500 Bibles No. 40. 12	6.000
1000 Bibles 18 — 5	5.000
3000 Wash. Frank. & Marion 1.00	3.000
Looking Glasses	3.000
200 Davies 5.00	1.000
500 Coxe 3.25	1.600
250 Hunter 12.00	6.

You see no note is taken of the Royal Quarto. . . . 35.000

The Devil must be in it if by proper management I could not sell twice or 3 times that quantity. I know you will ask why have we not done something in this style all along? I answer because we have never acted as we ought. You know very well that when I made a 12 months run there by myself with only one book, *the bible*; chiefly among the skin flint Dutch, I got 12 000\$ subscrib^d yes & so help me God, if the books had but been sent me, I sh^d have dispos^d. of them in the year, for I was time after time on the ground & the People clamorous for their Books. But most unfortunately the Books were stored at places out of circulation so that they could not be had, and I had the double purgatory of disappointment at first & then the infandum loss of repairing to Philad^a. & dragging the books thence to the up country. My idea is, that by running the business till July, we shall have time, which we shall not *now*, to make an experiment somewhat after my own mind. I will get my Hunter & Coxe out in the right way, dash thro' Richmond, Petersbg &c &c with them & the Bible, Davis, Melish, &c &c & test the thing fairly — if it answer, which I firmly believe, we shall make amends for all, for in that event, of a good success, we may improve on the system. But observe, I don't ask this — I merely want to shake my skirts of the blood of this noble Plan so long murder^d. Write to me by return of mail. I shall be gone but it can be sent to me. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 22.

DUMFRIES, Sep. 15, 1817

SIR — . . . When I was there Mr. Moore had all y^r books pack^d for you, perhaps they are now at Mordecai Miller's¹ Alexand^a. where I order^d them & where you will please send for Mr. M. Please remember he is rich & pious, ergo very safe. Please send Mr. Moore a catalogue (at [?]¹ full or in the aggregate) of all the books *you sent him* from Philad^a in 1809-10 — I sent him 217\$ worth. He is ready to pay. Also I begg^d you to send me the list of all the books you sent to Robinson, Haymarket, Prince W^m. Virginia.

I wrote you by last night's mail, relative to a little longer trial of the business, merely because the season 'twixt now & New Year will not suffice for a fair trial. You can direct y^r letter to Richmond because in the event of y^r approbation, (which I tell you again I *do not solicit*) I will dash at Hunter & Coxe from that place, having now the Comendations I have been waiting for. If the thing meet not y^r. wishes there will be an end to Hunter, at least I shall conclude you so wish it.

L. & F. Vol. 22.

RICHMOND, Sep. 26. 1817

SIR — . . . I told you before & tell you now that I do not SOLICIT a continuance of the connexion which has so long been so unfortunately misconducted.

Mark now, after sending me only *one moiety* of the Merchandize ordered for all the upland & the Maryland stations, which by the by, carried me as completely as tho' you had sent the whole; well now after all that time is lost & the Subscribers disappointed, & mad as the D——l, of course you have sent the ballance of the merchandize and here I

¹ *Ad.* 'Mordecai Miller . . . just received a handsome assortment of silver watches . . . all of which we will warrant to be good. Chains, Seals, Keys & etc. as usual. Coral, Beads, Rattles and Small bells for Children . . .' *Columbian Mirror and Alexandria Gazette* (Virginia), Mar. 12, 1796, AAS. — 'Forty Dollars Reward, For apprehending and securing John Pigot, And

the property he carried off . . . He calls himself a watchmaker, is a dirty ill looking fellow . . . He carried with him 1 gold watch, 2 silver watches . . . and sundry articles in the jewelry line . . . mostly stamped with two plain letters, M.M. — . . . Mordecai Miller. Alexandria, Sept. 24th, 1800.' *Virginia Argus* (Richmond), Oct. 3, 1800, AAS.

am in RICHMOND 200 miles distant. If I stay here, getting subscribers, nothing will be done with the aforesaid merchandize. If I go to Winchester, to Martinsburg &c &c it will cost an expenditure of 6 days to get there. God's mercy on my Soul! 6 days rolling up the sands, then jolting over the mountains! And all this Sacrifice of time & Comfort & cash to do what ought to have been done when I was there 5 weeks ago! And still I am to be blam^d for all this! I say again that tho' I do not ask a continuance of this miserably mismanaged business, yet since you have blam^d me about Davis & Coxe &c I am willing on the conditions mention^d in my letter to give the thing a trial till July 18, the time first fix^d on. And if the thing cou^d be left to ME you w^d find that a revolution w^d take place greatly for the better. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 22.

RICHMOND Oct. 7. 1817.

SIR — To my great grief the last four days have been pass^d on the bed tormented & exhausted by a Tenesmus & Diarrhea. But thank God, I feel today as if I sh^d be able to return "to duty" tomorrow. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 22.

RICHMOND Octob. 9. 1817.

SIR — . . . Being, as I wish, a little above the par. Very feeble yet, — but going about — getting Sub^s. — Shall set out this afternoon or in the morning for a large meeting, & the next day a Court. . . .

Inclosed I send you the case of that Elegant Gentleman, a Scots Merchant of Augusta, Georgia, of the name of M^cIntosh, see the page 31, near the bottom.¹ It is sketch^d by the pencil of a youth of this place, who is deaf but can read, and is astonishingly quick with his pencil to hit off in that strong style which best suits subjects of this nature. I have promis^d to give him 3 dollars *in books*, for every one that he will do equal to this. Such pieces as these w^d give a wonderful popularity to our pamphlets. And the best Judges tell me that these pamphlets alone, wisely & vigorously acted on w^d. bring in 10000 Doll^s a year. Their tendency to guard youth against Vice is acknowledged by all who are

¹ Evidently alluding to a cut for *God's Revenge against Gambling* (Bibliography, title 192).

acquainted with human nature. I w^d advise you *immediately* to put this drawing in good hands — please put the name of the youth who did it, i.e. “Young Rob K. Smith. Richmond.”¹ Tho we are to cooperate only for 8 or 9 months, yet I think great things might be done in that time by these pamphlets with plates & showbills on that scale of distribution that I w^d advise as also by W. F. & Marion, especially if you cou’d get a good French face, keen, aqueline & intelligent, for Marion. If a good bold dash of subscriptioneering say for 5 months, placing the Pamphlets, W. F. & Marion in well chosen stores, as we went along, & then returning with the Bibles, Maps & so on, & reaping a double harvest — Great things might be done.

L. & F. Vol. 22.

RICHMOND Octob. 17. 1817.

SIR — . . . You want to know whether I have done anything with Hunter. I have y^r letter expressing a determination *not to print it*. As to Davies y^r. letter menacing a close of the connexion at NEW YEAR, produc^d. a similar paralysis. But in the morning I shall place, perhaps, 30 of the Subⁿ. papers in as many hands of the popular Presbyterian Preachers, now here in session. As to Hunter, you know he is my favorite, & tho for reasons before assign^d, nothing has yet been done, yet I am as confident as I can be of any thing that an edition may most assuredly be sold if you will but be decisive as to printing it. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 22.

RICHMOND Oct. 18 1817.

SIR. . . . If *Jesse cou’d attend the Courts in those places* [Winchester, Spartansburg, Shepardstown, Harpers Ferry etc.,] and let me go on undisturb^d. it might be far better. At present he is doing nothing because under the impression that you do not want him. He came down last week to the Baptist Association 65 miles south of Dumfries, to bring me some of y^r Bibles & Pamphlets. and inform^d me that he is at a loss for

¹ ‘R. K. Smith engraved a stippled portrait of Rev. John Flavel published in Richmond, Va., 1824.’ *A History of the Rise and Progress*

of The Arts of Design in the United States, William Dunlap, Boston, 1918, Vol. III, p. 335, 1c.

you don't write to him. For my part I know not what has pass^d between you & him: but sh^d. be very glad you wou'd immediately let him know y^r intentions. He told me he had sent you 300\$ some time in the summer. Since which he has done little or nothing for you, from some idea, how conceiv^d I know not, that you did not want him. I pray you write to him fully, both as to what regards the past & the future for his Uncles Dr Tho^s & Jam [*Ewell*] now turn^d Authors make him offers to turn out & make sales & get sub^s for them, but for myself I had rather he sh^d. continue with me. He is very active when he has anything to do & w^d. do well to *attend the Courts & collect* while I am getting Sub^s. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 22.

RICHMOND 20 Octob. [18]17.

SIR . . . If in one of the boxes to Norfolk you cou'd send 60 of the Likenesses of Washington, 60 of Frank & 60 of the best plate in Marion and 100 of the Fruits (Coxe) — & 100 apiece of the Looking Glass cuts (viz. Drunkards, Gamblers &c &c &c) I will make a good use of them. At 9 o'clock this morning I am to meet the Synod of Divines who have promis^d all their support of Davies' sermons. The hour I get to Norfolk I shall print Judge Washington's letter & Gen^l Mason's in favor of Coxe,¹ & if you advise I will on my return here, Print the Bishops Recommendations of Hunter & give everything a good start, & do good things for ourselves & for the World. For as to Materials, if I had the world to choose I w^d not ask better than Hunter, Davies, Coxe, Wash. Frank. Marion, the Pamph^{ts} and Bibles. . . .

But I hope we shall get over them all [*damning drawbacks*] by Christmass & make a new & better start. If you mean to print Hunter and after so much expence incurr^d. it were very wrong not to do it, send me only 100 cuts with the rest to Norfolk & *I'll dash properly*. Write to Jesse. Get a great many things ready for me this fall. Did you put the design for the Drunk^d. Lookig Glass to the Engraver. You have no idea of what may be made by these Pamphlets with ad captand. cuts. Millions might be sold, & they can be printed so cheap. Write & send to Norfolk.

¹ Never found by me.

L. & F. Vol. 22.

YORK, VIRG^a. NOV. 2, [18]17.

SIR — 8 days ago I got to Norfolk, found no letter relative to Hunter & Coxe, as I begg^d. you to send, ergo I did not print my recommendations, found the place completely deluged with Bibles Collins's Brown's & the Dear knows what else. However I fell to work & tho' still grievously afflicted with my tenesmus & Diarrhea I cut out work for you. . . .

I am hurrying home to get ready if Life be continued to do something else. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 22.

WILLIAMSBURG. NOV. 4 — [18]17.

. . . From the black sheep so thickly mix^d with poor Elijahs Merinos, at *Richmond*, I fear^d something of the sort here, & so what with that dread & the dread of rain when I left Norfolk in an open gig I brought with me but two out of the 3 boxes of Maps you sent me there . . . You might make a great deal by it if it sh^d please God to restore me to good health. . . . If you have not printed (*Marion*), let me know & I'll send you [*a new?*] anecdote of him, which many of the S. Carolinian members of Congress beg sh^d be inserted in the next edition. Tho' I am thus traveling about I am miserably unwell. "But whatever is right." I shall start in an hour to crawl home.

L. & F. Vol. 75.

DUMFRIES NOV. 14. 1817

. . . I am, as you see, at home — and, thank God, well . . . I got home [*two?*] hours ago, after an absence of 7 weeks, & yet *tomorrow* I leave as affectionate [*a*] wife & family as any on earth, I go tomorrow to commence the Up-Country distribution & send you money.

Send large quantities to Richmond, as, I shall distribute much at Richmond unless you wish me to subscriptioneer in Pennsylvania.

*L. & F. Vol. 22.**CHARLESTOWN. Nov. 25, 1817.*

. . . Shall inform the subscribers thro' the Charleston paper¹ that their books will be here by the next Court. . . .

[*Unsigned.*]*L. & F. Vol. 22.**HAGERSTOWN Nov. 29. [1817.]*

SIR— . . . The demand here for Marion is very great & for the Bachelors. . . . In one half hour I start for the other places in Virg^a & M^d. . . .

[TO M. CAREY & SON]

*L. & F. Vol. 22.**DUMFRIES, Dec. 3^d. 1817.*

SIRS . . . Certes all Pandemonium is in Arms against us. And these lost Books &c were sent to care of Col^o M^cDonald & Son, Bowleys Wharff!! Is there no such thing as getting those People to send Family Bibles & Melish Charts — the one of Heaven & the other of the U. States, the two best countries in the Universe, when these same Gentry w^d send without fail a barrel of tar or of oyster shells? O my God, what is to become of our Republic?

As to your letter, which I receiv^d this moment, it does not surprise me at all. A Gentleman of your SENSIBILITY cannot be expected to stop & calculate slow Remittances when, even when, most physically flowing from mistakes of your own committing. I have been with my family, one of the most amiable on earth, but one day & an half in 4 months. And tho' this moment got home I start again in the morning for Maryland to see about the Books & Maps there. You know I am always ready to come up to you to have all things settled to your own wishes. But in my humble opinion it were better that all the monies now due sh^d. be thrown in as fast as possible & then an interview. . . .

¹ No such announcement was found in the *Courier, Times, and City Gazette*, Nov. 25 to following newspapers examined: *Charleston* Dec. 10, 1817, C.L.S.

1817]

LETTERS

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

*L. & F. Vol. 22.**DUMFRIES, [Dec.] 4, 1817*

SIR — . . . I am kept in a *most unpleasant* situation. Books promis^d to numerous subscribers — my Agents on all hands writing to me for books — I dashing, like one mad, from Dan to Beersheba to meet the Sub^s. at their Courts and behold I cannot find the books & yet amidst all these disappointments, you tormenting me with complaints as if I was doing nothing but play & sleep. The books & Bibles at Norfolk, Williamsburg, Richmond &c. &c. &c. are all *bespoken*. Cou'd I but be permitted to GO ON on a large orbit getting a cordon of Subscriptions to 6 or 8000 Doll^s amount or 10 to 12000 as I did when by myself, & a reasonable time allow^d for sending, and *proper persons* in towns of Deposit, and in *proper [torn] places* for wagons or Boats I might do something. But to be run, as you have served me these 6 months past, round & round the circumference of a Bee-Gum like a Dog in chase of his tail, is enough to try the patience of ten Jobs. . . .

*L. & F. Vol. 22.**BALTIMORE!!! [Postmarked Dec. 9.] 1817*

SIR Look at the place of date & wonder! Saturday I was in Alexandria — found the box of Maps sent 5 months ago for Dr Colmore Beans,¹ Piscataway!! Instantly cross^d the river with them to Piscataway. Got there in the afternoon found 4 of my sub^s on the spot, deliv^d & got the money. Now send it to you. Came up to Marlboro — no Maps! — No Bibles!!! Five months gone! No wonder you fret — And so sh^d I, as not one tenth the tythe [of?] your tale is gold & silver — but why sh^d man be vain? I push^d off & here on *Monday* night am arriv^d in

¹ Colmow Beanes of Prince George's Co., Md., married Milicent Tyler, Apr. 10, 1778. See *Maryland Records Colonial, Revolutionary, County and Church from Original Sources*, Gaius Marcus Brumbaugh, M.S., M.D., Baltimore, 1915, pp. 97 and 161, LC. — 'The Subscriber will sell his Plantation He now lives on, Situated within one and a half mile of Upper Marlbro', supposed to contain 360 acres, twenty of which

is meadow land, the greatest part under grass — a great plenty of wood and timber to support it. The improvements are a very convenient dwelling house in excellent repair, kitchen, a new fifty feet Barn and other out houses. . . . Colmore Beanes, Prince-George county, May 25, 1795.' *Columbian Chronicle* (Georgetown, D. C.), June 12, 1795 *et seq.*, HU.

Baltimore & shall set off back again in the morning for N. Marlboro, &c &c I did this because well aware that the boxes w^d otherwise be here all the Winter — & the Merchandize lie dead & in case of fire might be destroy^d. Had you written to M^r. Ford, all this loss of time & labour might have been sav^d. Indeed I have a hard time of it. To get Sub^s. I care not. 'Tis pleasant work to *me*. But to waste twice the time in getting the book is a sad drawback, especially as I have no satisfaction in travelling to the places of Rendezvous, dreading every stop that I shall find no books when I get there. There certainly is a remedy for this disease. . . .

I have found 3 large boxes for Westmoreland & Fredericksb^g & Shipp^d 'em. Just on the wing — Tis well my locks are white already.

L. & F. Vol. 22.

[*N.d. after Dec. 9. 1817.*]

. . . But I am afraid that the Old mismanagement will still be continued. After making that very unexpected haul among the Dutch in Pennsylv^a [*I*] cou'd not for the life of me get the Books, but had to break off from the delightful & glorious business of 5, 6, 7 or 8 Sub^s for a 12\$ Bible EVERY day and lose half a month travelling to Philadelphia in mid-winter to get the Books & drag them myself at a snail's slow rates over the Devil's turnpikes in Adam's County &c. &c. &c. If this is not enough to petrify any human flesh & blood, I don't know what is. Well then when I had done more in Winchester, Martinsburg &c &c than I ever dreamt, consider^g Collins man had just gone before me, I cou'd not & to this hour cannot get the books — tho' I have been *twice & three* times for them, & once came all the way from Norfolk &c. 200 miles! And now that [*bound in, I*] had hopes that the Bibles &c &c were all on the way to Norfolk, Williamsb^g &c &c that I might there at least do something, yesterday I got a letter from you stating that if the books are really *engaged* they shall be sent. Now when did I write to you for books that were not engaged? Were I by myself, and furnish^d with Bibles, Maps & every other Article as the ablest Printers & Booksellers are begging me often, you yourself will agree perhaps that I cou'd do a great deal better.



POHICK CHURCH, VIRGINIA, IN 1773



INTERIOR OF POHICK CHURCH IN 1922

But we have been unlucky together. We have long known each other — we both possess some noble points, and can fully confide in each others Industry & Honesty, these alone were sufficient to make *me* at least willing to give the thing a trial if you will do it in a *new way* of my own prescribing. But if you & Henry feel the least disposition, for God's sake so signify & let us dissolve soon as you think proper. But let what is engag^d be supplied — but even that shall, with me, be no sine qua non.

L. & F. Vol. 24.

PISCATAWEY. Dec. 14 — [18]17.

SIR — . . . Have just preach^d — tis the Sabbath — Tis no day, nor am I in the humour to complain — Things must go on as you please — But all in the wrong depend. . . .

'ANNAPOLIS, Dec. 19, 1817.

To The Rev. Mr. Allen with the Rev. Mr. Wilmer,¹ Alexand'a, Virg'a.

REV. SIR, I counted on the pleasure of preaching at Pohic church, on Sunday the 14th. Mr. Chichester made an appointment to that effect. Accident will not allow me that satisfaction. Will you do me the very great favor to discharge that debt for me. You can go down to Mr. P. Chichester's to breakfast — a pleasant and wholesome morning's ride; go with him and family to church; return to dinner, and in the evening to town. I see no possible obstacle to all this. Should there be, for I pretend not to know everything, will you get some Preacher or other to go down?

Yours with much esteem,

I shall depend on you. Mr. W. or Mr. N will lend you a horse.'

Southern Churchman, June 11, 1910, LC.

¹ Perhaps the following: *Ad.* 'Now ready for the Press, and the Publisher engages its appearance on the 20th September next, a new publication, entitled, *The Rock; or, Support under Trials; . . . By James Jones Wilmer, Author of Consolation, &c . . .*' *Delaware & Eastern Shore Advertiser* (Wilmington), Aug. 5, 1795, HU.

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

*L. & F. Vol. 24.**DUMFRIES, Dec. 21 — [18]17.*

SIR — . . . In the last fortnight I have travelled about 300 miles and met disappointment at every twist & turn. As to my unfortunate nephew Elijah, I tell you most solemnly I never open^d my lips on that Infandum subject, but to Mrs. Weems & to my son Jesse — to the first, on the ground of self defence or security — to the 2^d, altogether for sake of the In terrorem. And I am very certain they have never said a word of it to Living Wight. Poor Elijah is good at finesse — and this card now play^d is the creation of his own Suspicion.

You ask me, and for the last time whether I have got any sub^s to Coxe, Hunter, Davies, & Royal Bible. Three times or more have I told you that little or nothing has been done — and for 2 awful reasons: 1 but a little time ago you threaten^d a dissolution at Christmass. 2^d. neither for Coxe or Hunter had I the necessary Recommendations. . . .

*L. & F. Vol. 24.**DUMFRIES Dec. 26 — [18]17*

SIR — . . . From the fatal mismanagement that has attended — for 8 months attended our affairs, it w^d seem we cannot long act together. Let us make that time pass smoothly as possible, which cannot be done unless I meet the expectations of Sub^s. . . .

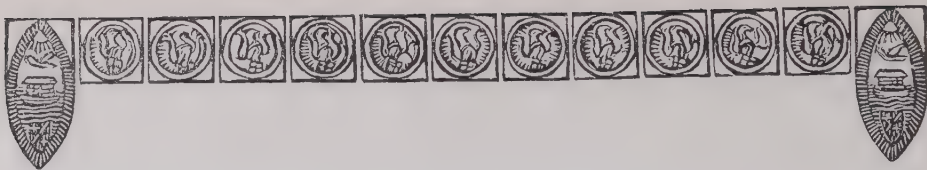
If you chuse to let me go to work in the right way, I may by July, the time of expiration of our connexion, get clear of Davies, Coxe & Hunter. I pray you make a good dash at once & let me go to Norfolk with the hope of meeting the expectations of all the Sub^s. [*for*] 300 pr 40 Maps at any rate. . . .

*L. & F. Vol. 24.**DUMF. Dec. 28, 1817*

SIR — I hope this letter will give Peace. To go over, from start to pole, the whole Devil's race ground of my sufferings & Complainings — 1 how I was order^d. to cruise in the *narrow seas* of Winchester, Martinsb^g &c &c — 2 how when I went for the Merchandize it was not

arriv^d — 3 how to fill up the *interluct*, I made a short dash — 4 how on my second return, to distribute I was again disappointed of the Books — 5 how I made another *short* excursion to fill up the *intervale* of dole. & on the 3^d return to distribute I was again staggd — 6th how I was disappointed at Marlboro, Chaplico &c &c — 7 how when I order^d Maps by scores I got them only by dozens & half dozens & sometimes none at all — 8 how when I order^d many books for persons respectable as James Munro you w^d not send or sent too late, or 1 or 200 miles off. 9 how at the very crisis of my chagrins, when I was near exhausted in mind & muscle from toil & disappointment, you were threatening “ON NO account to print Hunter, and to close the connexion at Christmass —” I say to go over all these & my late disappointm^{ts} on the Patuxent & at Norfolk & Richmond &c., both in Maps, Bibles & Washingtons &c &c w^d nearly run me mad. But for God’s sake a truce. I see now that you are willing to carry on the Experiment till July. Well. And I shall in a few hours set off to Richmond &c &c distributing what few I have to carry & all that I *may meet with*, of the Bibles & Washington &c. &c. I shall get cheap ad Captand. Prospectus of Cox, Davies, & Hunter printed — These with the Bibles I shall push with all my might. “Si quid novesti melius cordidus imparti si non &c &c”

Jesse starts tomorrow or next day to Martinsburg, Shepherdstown &c in quest of the Books sent thither 6 months ago!! On his return he follows me to Richmond as an Armour-bearer, but can do me but little service, in comparison of what might be done on another arrangement which he is willing to commence with you. He says he has never yet been engaged in getting subscribers but feels something like confidence that he w^d soon acquire the art — at any rate he is willing to make an Essay. He desired me to tell you that if you will give him a plain neat gig & horse — and allow him one dollar pr day for all his travelling expences, he will be satisfied with one eighth of the sales — you delivering the books at the Seaports & County towns. For my part I feel a great wish that a heavy attack sh^d be made on Davies & Cox & the Bibles (you having these ready for transmutation into Gold) Jesse I know & you know too to be very rapid in his movements — being young, & ambitious, as on his preferment, he will I hope do very handsome things. . . .



[He was] *intensely alive, ardently, gallantly alive. There was something in his quick . . . brown eye which assured you that he was not economising consciousness. He was not living in a corner of it to spare the furniture of the rest. He was squarely encamped in the centre and he was keeping open house.* — HENRY JAMES.

L. & F. Vol. 24.

RICHMOND Jan'y 5, 1818.

Inclosed I send — 100.

Got here, yesterday — Books not come!! I am done with apostrophes & all that sort of talk. The D——l & all his Imps are against us. And but that I brot a few books with me I cou'd not now have sent this little New Years Gift. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 24.

[*N.d. Jan. 8, 1818.*]

I send you the case of poor Peter & John Hays¹ — which has made some noise. Mason will engrave it well. Who will do it the best & cheapest . . . Did you get the last engrav^d.

L. & F. Vol. 24.

RICHMOND Jan'y 9, [18]18.

SIR — . . . Not got the books yet. Mortified that I am oblig^d to drag all the Marions Franklins &c back to Norfolk, after I had so earnestly & repeatedly begged that numbers should be sent to meet me there.

Whatever retards my travelling wastes time, & time is the stuff money is made of.

I sent you a design yesterday. I now send you two.² The Designers in Philad^a. charged me 5 Doll^s These cost but 3. Good Judges pronounce

¹ See note 2 to letter [*received Feb. 19, 1816*].

² For the *Drunkard's Looking Glass*.

them well done for fright'ning. The Legislatures here are going to take up the subject of drunkenness & lay heavy hands upon it. By proper management we might do much good to the world & its morals.

L. & F. Vol. 24.

WILLMSBG. Jany 12, 1818.

SIR — . . . Jesse having gone in the *stage* on the 4th trip — O horrible!!! to Harpers [*Ferry*], Shepherds [*Town*], & Martinsb'g, for the Infanda boxes, I took the gig. Found at Richmond all the Franklin & Marion which I had order^d to Norfolk, (at least a part of them) I was obliged to bring them also the Bibles (450) which I had order^d to this place. By a MIRACLE I got them here without breaking down which every body, myself among the number, wonder^d at. . . . And yet I'm faulted!

And you seriously "*wonder what I've been about all this time.*" Y^r. Maps, Bibles, Washingtons, Franklins, Marions, & Pamphlets *all* horribly scant — and those sent not sent as desir^d, but 100 miles from the mark. Tomorrow I get more money. And then, Deo Adjuvante for vain is the help of men, I shall start for Norfolk, whence I hope to write to you. At Norfolk I begin with Coxe & Davies & thence back to Richmond & so to the West, South, & all points of the Mariners Compass.

L. & F. Vol. 24.

NORFOLK. Jany 22, 1818.

SIR. . . . For a month past have not tho^t of selling a Pamphlet. Because I *cou'd not get a full set* for the life of me. I send back 712 — ODDS with 48 Life of Washington, the 8th edition printed in 1809 & sent here to Captⁿ. Tucker. I believe they are yours. For lack of others of the later ed^s. I sold about 25 Vol^s. which I have set to y^r. credit. . . .

NB. On 2^d thoughts will keep the above box of dissorted pamph^ts. & send them to Richmond, where you may at last put them right. Shall in my next, make proposition to take back Davies. I had hop^d, to have done great things for you, during this winter, & sh^d have so done, had you

but sent me Maps, W. F. Marion, Bibles, Pamp^{ts}. in the quantities I begg^d, several times begged. the last 300\$ were in U. State drafts. Did you get them? Tho' you allow me the pleasure to remit but little sh^d like to hear of that little gett^g. to hand.

L. & F. Vol. 24.

RICHM^d Jany 30 [1818.]

SIR — . . . I sent poor Jesse after those [books] shipp^d 8 months ago for Shepherds town, Martinsburg &c &c. *but* I can hear nothing of him. Perhaps he is sick.

. . . Have you sent 20 of 4.50 Bibles & 40 of Wash. F. & Mar. to Capt. James Tucker, Norfolk?

L. & F. Vol. 24.

RICHMOND — Feb. 2 — [18]18.

SIR — . . . When I return, which will be in 6 days, I shall set in to annihilate Davies. This very day I got your letter to me of the 7th Jan^y, desiring my acquiescence to yr 5 Requisitions. I am & ever have been willing and ready to do my part. And I have a dozen times assign^d you the reasons why so little has been done. But if I were to assign those reasons a dozen times more, they w^d not produce their proper effect! for you will not believe how you have circumscrib^d, confus^d, paralyz^d & played the D——l with me here for 9 months past. We *now understand* each other that an effort is to be made — and I hope that by July Davies will be where he ought to be. I have found it all important to shew a good specimen. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 24.

RICHMOND Feb, 4 — [18]18.

SIR — . . . Too bad for travelling — staid in town — & now send — 50.00.

Among the sons of men how few are known —
who care a fig for sorrows not their own?

The Bibles sent here, also W, F. & Marion all gone & sub^s. tearing me to pieces!!

And how many I might sell to the Legislature? — Heaven only knows.

. . .

I think you ought to make preparations to print a good many of my small Bibles, — as I shall probably sell many before July. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 24.

RICHMOND, Feb. 7, 1818.

SIR. . . . God willing shall return on the 3^d day & commence the Subⁿ for Davies &c. I hope to get all off by July. . . .

At any rate, as you are sometimes very good at contrivance, shall be glad [*if*] you will give the above plan a serious consideration & send me yr advice. I have intreated you to get a good French face for Gen^l Marion. Those three Lives, W. F. & Mar. if properly managed, with the *Pamphlets*, with some ad captandum pictures w^d. bring you in an immensity of money after a little time given to put 'em in circulation on a large & new scale & scheme.

Ixry — send me yr plan of operation betwixt this & July to raise the most money.

L. & F. Vol. 24.

RICHMOND, Feb. 10, 1818.

SIR — . . . [*I*] put papers for Davies into some good hands. . . .

Tis melancholy that we have no Wash. F. nor Marion the Legislature will I fear *clear out before they come*

L. & F. Vol. 24.

RICHMOND Feb. 15 — [*18*]18.

SIR — . . . Torn to pieces for Books but have none.

What a D——l of a misfortune — you wont follow suit?

L. & F. Vol. 24.

RICHMOND, Feb. 21, 1818.

SIR. . . . I allude to the success which I have recently been favor'd with in the affair of Davies. In 7 days I have receiv^d to the amount of 400 Vol^s. i.e. 80 copies — & all in the best hands. I have promise^d to

begin to deliver here 1st day of May. You will therefore have them very neatly bound & all fresh, as the Citizens of this place are *Metropolitans*. And the books ought to be bound as nearly as possible alike & well assorted to save time. . . .

Coxe is printing & I shall directly do all I can with him. God give us good speed!!! Send in the box, Cicero, Demosthenes, *Caesar* & Sallust, in best English translations. Also Fyfes Anatomy¹ with PLATES. Cuviers Comparative Anatomy,² Potts Surgery, Abernethys Surgical tracts,³ Hamilton on purgative medicines, Fordyce on fever.⁴ They are bespoken. If they can't be had let me know it. Also send 40 of each of the plates for Looking Glasses, each variety.

[M. L. W.]

'COMMUNICATION.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE DEVIL.

Or the precious Fruits of a Popshop.

"Of all the ills wherewith Columbia

"Cursed is, or can be curs'd,

"Still'd in hell's dark Pandemonia,

"Whiskey surely is the worst."

APPROACHING, lately, one of our county towns, I beheld, OH! — horrible sight! a HUMAN BEING, (a negro of gigantic size) hanging up in chains by the road side! The birds had plucked his eyes from their darkened sockets; his flesh, like blackest parchment, clave to his bones; while his teeth, chalky white and clenched in their large extended jaws, resembled Death himself, gnashing with rage that he had not his dart

¹ *A Compendium of the Anatomy of the Human Body* . . . In Three Volumes, with Plates. Fifth edition; enlarged and improved. . . . By Andrew Fyfe, Edinburgh: . . . 1812. LC.

² Perhaps one of the following, or a translation thereof: *Leçons d'anatomie comparée*, . . . or *Le règne animal distribué d'après son organisation; pour servir de base à l'histoire naturelle des animaux et d'introduction à l'anatomie comparée*, by M. le Ch^{er}. [Georges] Cuvier, LC.

³ Probably earlier editions of *Lectures on Anatomy, surgery, and pathology* . . . By John Abernethy, Boston . . . 1828 [LC.], and *Surgical observations on the constitutional origin and treatment of local diseases; and on aneurisms*, by the same, London, 1825, LC.

⁴ George Fordyce's *Five Dissertations on Fever*, London, 1794–1803, LC.

and liberty to murder the frightened passengers. "MY GOD!" I exclaimed in terror, "what's all this?" Why, Sir, replied one of the neighbors who had just fallen in with me on the road, "that wretch you see there, of the name of Dick, was the property of a man whose false kindness suffered him to run very much his own master, as if ignorant that constant occupation is as *noble a charity* to a servant, because as necessary to his happiness, as food and raiment. But the master's neglect of Dick, in the matter of furnishing him employment did not lay any restraint upon the devil, who soon cut him out a nice spot of work, by introducing him to a Popshop hard by. This detestable SOUL TRAP was kept by one John Blackfoot, a base degenerate American, who, dead to the divine ambition of raising grain, building houses, or multiplying fat cattle for his own and the welfare of his country, was content to get a barrel of whiskey, stick up his tickler at the window, and gloriously set himself to poison and curse all who came near him, encouraging idleness and roguery among servants, cutting and slashing among masters, assaults and batteries among neighbors, sighs and tears among mothers, rags and starvation among children, with other abominations, desolations and damnations, beyond all reach of arithmetic. Not content with the gains of this most iniquitous trade, he got a pack of cards that he might call in ALL FOURS in aid of his TICKLERS, and thus add plundering to poisoning. Such was the schoolmaster to whom the devil introduced poor Dick. He soon shewed himself no unapt scholar, He drank of Blackfoot's whiskey, though always to the great sorrow of his master's pigs and poultry, and his fingers often itched to be sharing in his glittering sweepstakes, Conscious that he was no gambler, he was for some time, held back by fear, from touching a card. An unlucky accident, however, threw him off his perpendicular. He was to be married at the coming holidays. Ten silver dollars were already laid up to purchase shawls and ribbons for his dark brown dulcinea. And now only ten more were wanted to set off himself the envy of all the black bra[i]n'd train. For some time, as just now said, he was afraid to play. but, one night, getting *half shaved*, he was easily over-persuaded, (a common curse of whiskey) to try his luck at All Fours! Instead of doubling his wealth, he was suddenly stripped of all! Poor wretch! at first he had serious thoughts of hanging himself, but the devil having a good job for him yet to do, whispered, "hang yourself indeed! what will you get by gaping like a mad dog in a halter! No, no, I'll put you upon a better track than that, *Kill Blackfoot!* and then you'll get back all your own money and a fine haul of his too!" Dick struck at the bargain at once, and so eager was the wretch to be fingering the dollars, that he determined to do the bloody deed the very next night. With the descending shades, Dick repaired to the ill-fated pop-shop. Little

dreaming that he was smiling on his murderer, Blackfoot gave Dick a hearty welcome especially when he saw that he had a fat turkey under each arm. Dick, with a Judas-like grin, told Blackfoot he was come to try his luck again. It is hardly necessary to tell the reader, that Dick's turkeys soon went the way his dollars had gone before. Having thus fleeced Dick of all his money and live stock, Blackfoot found in his heart *to treat!* Nay more, when Dick, the better to accomplish his bloody purpose, begged leave to sleep by his fire side, Blackfoot *readily consented*. One poor room constituted the whole *pop shop*, and two beds its humble furniture. The first of these, fronted by a fig leaf curtain, lodged Blackfoot and his wife, with their infant. On the second, the mother of Mrs. Blackfoot stretched her emaciated limbs, sighing and groaning often with the pains and aches of three score years and ten. Poor soul! God grant that you may have prayed with good acceptance to night, for this is the last night that you'll ever have to pray. Perhaps you have often joined the sneer of fools when cautioned by the preacher, that "*the wages of sin are death.*" But alas! you are now by your own bloody death to confirm the awful truth. — Yes, the sin of your son-in-law is bringing *death upon you all*. The murderer is even now in your chamber. And yet but a moment and he shall verify the fearful denunciation. "*They that will be rich shall fall into temptation and a snare, and into many hurtful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.*" The family now all gone to bed, Dick stretched like a lion by the fire side, resolves how swiftest to murder them all. "*Mass Johnny,*" says he to Blackfoot, with well dissembled friendship, "where's your axe?"

"I left it, Dick, in the woods where I was cutting to day."

This question roused the alarms of Mrs. B. who said in a whisper to her husband, "Dear me! why what can Dick want with the axe?"

"Pshaw! only to chop a little wood for the fire; pray go to sleep."

His wife still goading him with her fears, he called out and asked Dick what he wanted with the axe. "*Why Mass Johnny*" replied he, with well affected simplicity, "you may depend, sir, we shall have a right smart chance of frost here about day break, and I wanted to chop a little wood."

"*There*, did not I tell you so," said Blackfoot, and augrily [*sic*] turned himself from her to sleep, Disappointed of the axe, Dick soon found a substitute in a heavy iron pot-rack that hung very conveniently over the fire place. Learning now from the general snore, that the family was all sound asleep, and the room perfectly dark, Dick rose up to his hellish works, and gently taking down his pot-rack, and passing round a couple of drunken brutes that were lying like corpses on the floor, he approached towards Blackfoot's bed, to ascertain by the

touch how the heads of his destined victims lay. His hand lighting on the bosom of Mrs. Blackfoot, she started up, screaming and quitting her infant. threw herself by a convulsive effort over her husband to the back part of the bed. Dick then swinging high his *iron* pot-rack, levelled a dreadful two-handed blow which came down in thunder on the bolster, but was so mercifully parried by an unseen power, that not a hair was hurt of the heads of this poor defenceless group. The infamous Blackfoot sprung up and reaching the door, darted out just as a furious blow from the pot-rack shivered it to pieces, [.] fell as death, [*sic*] Dick threw himself out from the door in furious chace, but Blackfoot *carrying no weight*, as the racers say, and having got a start at the outset, he held his own till he reached the woods, where he luckily cleared himself. Disappointed of his prey, Dick wheeled about, in deadly rage, for the house, resolved to murder the feeble inhabitants and to plunder. Imagination trembles over this devoted family. Poor Mrs. Blackfoot, and her infant, and her aged mother, where are they? — Have they made no efforts to save themselves? No, none. Paralysed with fright, Mrs. Blackfoot could not dare to venture out, lest she should meet the murderer returning from the slaughter of her husband; so, pressing her child to her bosom, she crept under the bed, pulling down some of the clothes for a cover. And as to her mother, too old and infirm to brave the dismal night, she could do nothing but raise herself in bed where she sat wringing her hands and waiting the issue in awful expectation. Approaching the house which was now lighted up by a little negro girl of the family, Dick heard a voice: He stopped to listen. It was the old woman singing her funeral song — “*Ab, dear me! dear me! I always said so! I always told Johnny Blackfoot that this drinking and gambling could never come to good.*” “*Ab, ha! you d-n-d old hag,*” roared Dick, rushing in and approaching her bed with his murderous weapon, “*you can preach now about drinking and gambling! But when your dear Johnny Blackfoot was winning all my money and Turkies, you had not a word to say, but sat by grinning and looking on as sweet, as if you were presently to be made a great lady. But i’ll soon put a stop to your greatness and your preaching too. Take that! you d-n-d old Witch, — and that!*” With a feeble moan, as a calf sinking under the axe of the Butcher, the poor old woman bowed herself in her bed weltering in blood. “Hollo! Hollo!” exclaimed one of the Drunkards half rising up, “why, what the D—! Some more Whiskey! Blackfoot, some more Whiskey!” — “Yes! yes!” returned Dick, “You shall have a plenty of it — *there!* go and get your next Whiskey in hell!” and therewith gave him a thundering blow on the head which bursted his skull and sprinkled the blood in showers on the wall. Dick then fell on the Drunkard who lay dead, asleep on the floor, and soon saved him the trouble of ever waking again. Bran-

dishing his bloody weapon he then stepped to Mrs. Blackfoot's bed side, *to hell*, and bitterly cursing her for having as he thought, run away — she all the time with her infant at her breast lying under the bed nearly dead with fright, expecting every moment to be dragged out and butchered. Presently he dashed down his Potrack, and stepping to the table where lay the little trunk in which he knew Blackfoot kept his money, he snatched it up and off he went. Great was the joy of poor Mrs. Blackfoot, especially as her infant, the moment he was gone began to cry. But still trembling with apprehension of his return, she kept her lurking place under the bed, surrounded by the darkness, and awful silence of death, till day break, when her husband with a posse of the neighbours, armed, came to her relief presenting a spectacle of blood and slaughter too shocking even for the eye of fancy to glance over. Dick rapidly pursued, was soon overtaken and brought back to execution. His dying words were remarkable. He desired all men to take notice that it was "Blackfoot's Grogshop that had brought him to his end, as also the three poor souls who had been murdered by him; and whose blood he heartily prayed God in his mercy to forgive him." Should this story but prove the honored mean of persuading only one person to decline keeping a pop-shop and turn to the glorious labours of the plough, it will be matter of lasting joy to all who long for the dignity of human nature and the safety of society. Those who wish to understand the PHILOSOPHY of Drunkenness, i. e. its real cause and true cure, will do well to get the ["*DRUNKARD'S LOOKING GLASS*."] — the 5th edition with 2 cuts, by M. L. Weems, author of the *Life of Washington*, price 25 cents — cheaper to those who purchase to give to friends.*

Also by the same,

- 2 The Gambler's Looking Glass.
- 3 The Adulterer's Looking Glass
- 4 The Bad Husband's Looking Glass.
- 5 The Bachelor's Looking Glass.

The five pamphlets, collectively form a valuable MORAL COASTING PILOT FOR YOUTH, pointing to the numerous rocks and quicksand which beset their course in early life, and on which millions are cast away before they have had time to learn wisdom from their own experience.'

[*Unsigned.*]

* May be got to day in the lobby of the House of Delegates.'

Virginia Patriot, and Richmond Daily Mercantile Advertiser, Feb. 23, 1818, vstL.

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LETTERS

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 24.

RICHMOND, Feb. 25, 1818.

SIR — . . . There are openings in this wide extended Land for thousands and tens of thousands of Bibles. And the high prices now given for our produce is making the People rich very fast both in town & country: but especially in the Country where the Population lies. But here lies what divides & distracts. You have on hand Davies & Coxe — to the amount perhaps of 6 to 7000 Dollars. To push these off in the shortest time the towns must be tax'd. The Bibles of course must be neglected; because the towns, hereabouts, have all been inundated by Mr Collins's Agents. But the moment I get thro' the large towns, for the purpose of annihilating Davies & Coxe, I shall hasten into the Country. I have now a *moral certainty* that Richmond alone will want 200 copies of Davies. . . .

If Davies & Coxe were off your hands, I w^d advise [*you*] to make the Bibles the Sole objects of attention, with the exception of Hunter.

[TO M. CAREY & SON]

L. & F. Vol. 24.

PETERSBURG, March 2, 1818

SIRS, I am just arriv^d, 6 hours ago, at this place. Owing to the inclement morning & the et cætera of impediments ineffable, I have done little more than start the Gazette Typesetters on our edition of Davies Sermons. Did I not do wonders at such a place as Richmond, in getting as good as one thousand vol^s of Davies's Sermons there? I lament that the paper is not something better. I intreat you to attend to the binding. Let that be very neat & *fresh* & it may help us out a little. I am going on here & at Norfolk as under the conclusion that "*Davies delendus est*" or Davies fuit. I am also minded not to neglect the Bible, tho' for the reason in my last, (Collins' Agents lately here) I count but little on that string — nor to neglect, Wash. F. & Marion to whom I've just gotten several subs^s. . . .

I have promis^d my Richmond sub^s. that they shall have Davies in

May *early*. Can't you get them there by that time? But my mind is made up for disappointment. I sent you 5 designs for the Drunkards Looking Glass — all of them bold Caricatures, especially that for Peter & John Hays who were burnt to death. Have you put them into hands?

L. & F. Vol. 24.

PETERSBG. [*N.d. received March 13, 1818.*]

SIRS — . . . Yours & Mr. Melish^s is come to hand. My mind is made up never to exert my *own* labours in subscriptioneering for any but books of a MORAL & Religious nature. You know that all my scribblings have been of that character — because I have always thought that these lead to views, & these spring those affections which contribute most to sweeten the tempers, to ennoble the actions, & to make safe & delightful the Society & Converse of Men. . . . To me therefore, on conviction, “*hoc Opus hic labor est.*” And as my mind is [*fixed?*] to this firm principle & feeling, so, thank God, I find an additional motive to it, from the ties of a very comfortable interest & success. The Bible, properly managed, w^d alone furnish an abundant provision for a Man of such Moderate views as mine. And here from Davies, as I always told you, we have the prospect of a fine harvest. In 5 days I have receiv^d sub^s. to the amount of 605 Vol^s. or Doll^s. — besides several Bibles & some W. F. & Marion. James River alone, I have good reason to believe, will take more than half your edition of Davies. I pray you put 150 or 200 copies to *neat binding* for Petersburg. But if you & Mr. Melish think proper to confide to me the extension of these popular Maps thro' the Agency of Proper Gentlemen I think I can make great sales for you. I mean, by putting a subⁿ paper & a Map, (by *all means*) into the hand of [*an?*] Establish^d character for Wealth & Probity, giving him a copy for every ten good sub^s, to be supplied by him & he to pay me. I say that considering my extent of Acquaintance & Travels, also my stock of dear bought Experience, I have not the SHADOW OF A doubt but a great deal may be done. I am this moment about to dash for Norfolk. God grant me as good success there as have here crown^d the labours of y^{rs}.

M. L. WEEMS.

1818]

LETTERS

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 24.

NORFOLK, March 17 — [18]18.

SIR — Yours of the 7th is come to hand. My success in Davies is still very satisfactory. In 3 days nearly 500 Vol^s. counting Richmond, Petersburg & this place, I have receiv^d (in about 3 weeks *concentrated*) 1800 Vol^s.

Thus, as I said, 400 copies of Davies or 2000 Vol^s. will be taken on this one River! But what avails my getting sub^s. if I can't get the Books? I did great things with the 12 & 15 Doll^r. Bibles among the Dutch in Pennsylv^a. and their money was always ready, but still it all came to but little at last. I cou'd not for the life of me get the books. And many precious weeks, — single days of which were worth, (in towns) 100 dollar^s, were lost in creeping from place to place to meet books that never came. And after all, while dull lumber selling Merch^{ts} cou'd unfailingly get by cheap & ready wagons, their grindstones & castings, I was oblig^d to BREAK OFF from such PRODUCTIVE *subscriptioneeing*, & CRAWL AWAY DOWN TO PHILA^d. TO CRAWL UP AGAIN WITH THE BIBLES!! And now you'll see if the Devil does not get a back lock upon us somehow or other — Either the books will be bound too late to *meet* me at RICHMOND the 1st day of May, at PETERSBG the 6th. at NORFOLK the 16 or they will be put on board some boat that after getting them will alter her voyage & run off to the West Indies. I'll be bound I meet the Cloven foot at some turn or other in this affair, promising as it now looks. Well look to it. I have honestly endeavor^d to do my part. And, thank God, with such good success that Booksellers & others say they are astonish^d at it. I am convinc^d if I cou'd have my way with Wash. Frank. & Marion & the Pamph^{ts}. with good Caricatures — to sell by WELL-CHOSEN AGENTS — & myself attend to Bibles, to Davies & Hunter, I sh^d do what w^d excite even y^r. astonishment. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 24.

DUMFRIES. March 31, 1818

SIR — This hour, after an absence of 3 months precisely, and collections with subscript^s. for one book only — amount \$4000 Dolls., — I reach^d home. 3 days rest & I start for Balt^o. to FINISH DAVIES. The

Bibles for Richmond, not arriv^d when I left that place — But in *the river*. I intreat you to send me immediately to care of Will^m M^c.Donald & Son Balt^o. two boxes of Bibles @ 4.50, *my yellow paper*, TEN IN EACH BOX. If sent instantly or soon as possible I shall meet them in Balt^o. I am afraid Mr. Bonsal, of Norfolk, will injure us in the affair of Davies. At any rate send him no more of that Book until I shall have finish^d our distribution. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 24.

BALT^o. Ap. 9. 1818.

SIR — Last night I reach^d this place. Having been very busy in getting the names of those Divines whose commendations of Davies w^d stand me in best stead. The Bishop & some other Eminent Rev^{ds} & right Rev^{ds}. “the De’il stick their Kingshood in a spleuchan!” — will not put their shoulders to the wheel at all. So that I must try what can be done in the name of the “Lord & Gidion.”

. . . By a letter, of the lengthy sort, just receiv^d from Captⁿ. Tucker, Norfolk, it appears that Mr. Bonsal has distributed the Davies you sent him, and “*principally to our Sub^s!*” I think it were wrong to send him any more, untill our sub^s. are supplied as, according to Tucker, many of the latter are much displeas^d to find that the books are in market & at the same price. It appears that the Devil will stick to us in some shape or other. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 24.

BALT^o. Apr. 13, 1818.

Dr. SIR — . . . Happy are they, the Sons of Peace, ’twixt whom — “Thought meets thought & will prevents will with perfect harmony”! I am griev^d for y^r. sake & mine that, knowing as you did, that I was coming to Balt^o. “*to finish* as I said *Davies Sermons*,” you did not let me know that the Edition was exhausted. . . .

I am charm^d with the liberality & good sense, of y^r. conclusion yes “LET US PART IN GREAT GOOD HUMOUR”

1818]

LETTERS

[To M. CAREY & SON]

L. & F. Vol. 24.
BALT^o. Ap. 15, 1818

GENTLEMEN. . . . I am uniformly unfortunate. However the port is close ahead, so I'll e'en clew up & go softly in to moorings.

[To MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 24.
DUMFRIES. Ap. 21 — [18]18.

SIR — . . . That there have been horrible blunders committed is undeniable, But that they are to be laid at my door you will not, I hope, on due consideration allow yourself even to think. Let the complete sacrifice of the last months suffice to show that none of us are infallible.

But tho' we part I shall be willing to do whatever is honorable with regard to Cox & Hunter, and also to give you the preference to all others in y^r. Bibles. If you cou'd get cheap plates — wood — 4 on a page — neatly done & giving an Ad captandum name — as to number &c &c I count to do a good deal.

L. & F. Vol. 24.
PETERSBURG. May 14, 1818.

SIR, I always told you that the Devil w^d stick to us in some shape or other. And I fear^d he w^d, even in this instance tho' D^r. Davies a most Holy Man of God with his 63 Sermons stood in the way. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 24.
PETERSBURG May 15, 1818.

SIR. Yesterday, agreeably to promise in my letter the day before, I deposited in the Farmer's Bank here — subject to your check — 500.00

Now I send you 200.00 This makes more than the amount of everything sent me to this place. This surplusage is to be set to the account of my apprehensions of the Devil & his long experienc^d malice against me. The truth is I brought, *as some security*, a parcel of Bibles from Richmond. I got here on Monday night — on Tuesday I went to Prince

George Court 7 miles distant, & sold well, so that everything sent here is dispos^d of except a few W. F. & Marion & pamph^{ts}. You now see, after *a thousand forewarnings*, that we are never to expect to get clear of the Devil. I wanted 800 Vol^s. of Davies at Richmond — thro' some strange Devil begotten mischance, one box has it seems, miscarried for that place — tho I hope not yet to be set down for lost. I wanted 800 Vol^s. at Petersburg. I got but about 106 or 8 sets. Thus, as in a great part of our miserably managed Business from 1809 — in Virginia — in S. Carolina & Georgia — in Pennsylvania — and to this day, I am constantly disappointed. In Octob. I told you what I sh^d want for my Winter provisions in Richmond &c. I never got them till 5 weeks ago. The piece fires when the birds are flown — many won't take their books, having gotten them from other hands under the impression I w^d, as usual disappoint them. And the business of the Winter is now crowded upon the business of the Spring.

You'll please take notice that I reciev^d here but two boxes, 9 10 & 11 with a bundle of pamph^{ts}.

But that it is too late now to trouble myself or you with complaints, I w^d. indulge a strain of deepest regret that Wash. the 19 & Marion the 5 Ed^s. are so well calculated to fill me with fear & trembling in the presence of my Sub^s. so dark a paper & vol^s. so compress^d & thin, and the latter Vol especially so badly bound were hardly ever yet offer^d for one Dollar. . . . It is not to be wonder^d at that subscrib^g for books sh^d be getting so unpopular.

L. & F. Vol. 24.

RICHMOND. June 3. 1818

SIR — On reaching this place last night I found a letter from you, of the 5th ult^o. offering an extension of our commerce, if I w^d. push Massillon with such spirit & success as recently attended the Sermons of Davies. You will not I hope be offended if I beg leave to decline it. My heart is set on Hunter, this being more than twice the size & ten times the celebrity, *in this country at least*, presents an object worth attending to. From the impression on my mind that exceeding good may result from a wide dissemination of this Book, seconded by the recollection that you have incurr^d expense in this work on my account, and also a moral

certainly that an immense success w^d crown my efforts in this affair, I say, taking these considerations together I feel a willingness to try Hunter, in spite of all the ten thousand smarts & sorenesses that I have suffer^d, more or less in every stage of our connexion. You say in one of your later letters that I recieve a "*large salary for which I make no adequate returns.*" I wanted to part in Peace & good humour. But such remarks as these are not calculated to make us part in Peace & good humour. They serve to drive my thoughts back along the whole chain of my disappointments & vexations & losses. *What adequate services*, cou'd I render when instead of taking a vast field for a large tho distant crop, as at first intended, I was confin^d to a mere nook & corner for sake of a most trifling gain merely because it was immediate.

What services cou'd I render when even the books for that nook & corner were withheld from me to a most horrible consumption of time? In one of y^r letters deliver^d me by M^r Hagerty, you candidly acknowledge that this was a sad oversight. But still you continue to reiterate the charge from this quarter! You seem never to think of doing me the justice to recollect that one fourth of the whole time of our connexion has been wasted in traveling over & over again the long & wearisome roads in fruitless quest of the books wanted for subscribers. In a few weeks, on this one river I obtain^d for one book & that only a 5 Dollar book, a subⁿ of 2300 Doll^s. I told you the *week & day* I sh^d want to commence distributing, & had the books met me aright I sh^d in 3 weeks have annihilated the edition. But here now I have been obliged to travel all the way from Norfolk on the South side of the River, lookg for some of the books, and must now, to meet sub^s. & Courts about Williamsbg & York & Mathews County, set off tomorrow for those distant places, to a sad loss of time. But all this entirely escapes y^r. recollection.

If you wish we sh^d part in peace & good humour, I pray you say no more on this hateful subject. I do not believe that you are capable of doing an unjust thing knowing it to be such. Then do not judge & talk thro' such mists of passion. You are, tho unintentionally doing me much injustice. . . .

I sent you yesterday, from Peterb^g 200.00

N.B. I have found the box & bundle that were lost

L. & F. Vol. 24.

RICHMOND, June 13, 1818.

SIR — . . . I sh^d. be miserable indeed if I had not the consolation to recollect that my name throughout all the Country is Proverbial for Industry. And also that whenever my hands have been unfetter^d, as here of late I have done things that excite the astonishment of all. You propos^d an extension of the connexion for two months if I w^d exert myself on Massillon. I begg^d you in my last not to get offended that I wish to decline the offer. I have no encouragement to undertake anything with you. However as you have incurr^d expense about Hunter on my account, tho I was innocent of any idea of your going to put up the subscription books in that costly way, and as you also bro't forward Coxe at my instance, I again tell you that I am willing to push those two books thro for you. From the uncommon celebrity of Hunter I feel confident, as I always have done, that [I] cou'd in one year dispose of 10.000 Dollars worth of it. I feel also very confident, and my late essay ought I think to shew that such confidence is not exaggerated, that I cou'd of Davies Sermons a new edition dispose of 5.000 Doll^s. Also of Melish's maps, 3000 Dolls. in the way I *propos^d* in past letters

of Wash. F. & Marion	3.000
of two Bibles	4.000
of the Pamph ^{ts}	1.000

Making in all, with Coxe, the sum of 25.000 Doll^s, at the lowest calculation. Now, Sir, this is what I honestly think may be done, by *proper management* and from what I have *lately* done with only one of this squadron, & that a bark too of the smallest class, I think almost any moderate man w^d agree that something great might be done if I were left to my own unfetter^d energies — & *spiritedly supported*. That I cou'd get the Lawyers throughout my extensive Seaboard rout to do something handsome for Massillon I have no doubt. And it is understood by me, that these books are to be *ingaged* before any expence is to be incurr^d on them. Now if you choose to make one last experiment in this way, I am content, for the reason assign^d to give you all my aid. I shall be in Dumfries in a few days — to the marriage of my son.¹

¹ Jesse Ewell Weems (see *Appendix XVII*) married Nancy Otis Rickard (or *Richard?*).

L. & F. Vol. 26.

FREDERICKSBG. June 20. 1818

SIR. By this mail I send to Mr. Melish 120.00
 with orders to pay you 20
 And now send you 80

I hope Capt. Tucker has remitted to you e're this. His appearing in this affair at all, was a Volunteer of his own. On the arrival of the boxes at Norfolk, he determin'd, by way of prevent^s. Mr. Bonsal from furnishg my sub^s. to hand them out, (Davies' Sermons) to the sub^s. who were gett^g clamorous. And by the time I got to Norfolk, he had distributed to the amount of 450 Dolls. On settling he cou'd pay me but 200!! As he had been a great friend to both of us, especially to me, I cou'd not say a word to him. The money no doubt is safe, for Tucker is wealthy. But it is lamentable that anybody shou'd be fond of keeping other Peoples Money.

Well now suppose that he has paid you, then it appears that in 6 weeks I have sent you as follow —

From Richmond — May	400
do do	200
Petersbg — 15	500
do	200
Norfolk — May 27	330
Petersbg again	200
Richmond — June	200
Now to you	100
& to Melish	100
& suppose Tucker	250
	<u>2480</u>
And suppose for my expenses & Monies to	
Mrs. Weems & children	520
	<u>3000</u>

In six weeks — notwithstanding the delays &c in getting the books — You see now what might have been done had things been work^d right.

N.B. I shall write to you an a/c of the goods sent this winter as you desir^d.

*L. & F. Vol. 26.*ALEXAND^a June 23, 1818

SIR — . . . Yesterday I got home where I found yours of the 16th *perhaps*. You say you can't command the winds & the waves, the Captains & Waggoners — and that if my books fail to arrive at the spot & nick of time I had ordered, "I make the Welkin ring" i.e., that my complaints, like drumbeating are all a mere vox et præterea Nihil, or like pig-sh[*e*]aring — all cry & no wool. An Integri vitæ dreads no light, now let's to the light. When many years ago — O years never more to return — I gave you a list of the books that *w^d w^d w^d* sell, and you in place thereof sent me the Tops & Bottoms, the Tags, Rags, & Bobtails of the Shelves, did I make the *Welkin ring*? When in S. Carolina & Georgia their learned Judges & Lawyers & Scribes gave me numerous Catalogues of Books they wanted but which you wd not send tho' my character & feelings & livelihood depended, did I make the Welkin ring? When after that, you gave assurance sign^d, seal^d & deliver^d for 250 little ad captandum Bookstores, to be run with Johnson's Maps & then wd not give a single store but still insisted I must sell the maps, did I make the Welkin ring? When, contrary to all rhyme or reason you wd in spite of me push 10 to 15000 Dolls worth of Books to that vile "Black hole" Dumfries to cost of time & trouble to me most horrible, did I make the Welkin ring? When here more recently, instead of letting me dash on with the current of success Bible subscriptioneering in Pennsylv^a., you kept me trotting backwards & forwards for promis^d books always hoping & often disappointed, did I make the Welkin ring? And here, more modern still, when a fair plan for success on a wide scale was drawn & approbated even by Henry, but in place of letting me dash on you chose for a mere bagatelle of immediate gain to confine me & then disappoint me & ultimately mar the plot, did I make the welkin ring? But see here Mr. Carey, this squabbling can never do any good. Let it be our mutual care that it shall do no harm. You said, perhaps more than once, "let us part in good humour." — "let us part in peace." Ab mio corde it is my wish. I have eaten bread & drank wine at your table. These things make impressions which I hope no waves of time will ever wash away. And when Interest adds its Voice to that of friendship he must be a dull adder indeed who cannot hear. You are unequalled in the ability to

print Bibles & Books, I possess tis said, some talent at gett^g sub^a. Well then, tho' we part, by mutual consent, in other respects, let us still unite in this, I to subscriptioneer & sell & you to furnish the Books — on terms hereafter to be agreed on. My son Jesse is to be married this evening. Tomorrow or next day we get home. Perhaps tis Duty to spend two or 3 days with him on an occasion so rare in life. I then set out thro' Balt^o. & Pennsylv^a. to see you. And altho the FATES forbid us to succeed in *one* way, it shall be your own fault if we do not succeed in another. I have the Catalogue of Books sent the Winter past — and shall bring it with me. . . .

Jesse tells me he sent you 150\$ from this place.

L. & F. Vol. 26.

DUMFRIES July 4, 1818.

SIR — Agreeably to promise I shoud have set out on my way to yr Metropolis, several days ago. But as God, (I hope) w^d have it I was attack^d in the face, and eyes, & teeth with a defluxion of most caustic rheum which put all thoughts of travelling, except to the other world, entirely out of my thoughts. Indeed what with inflammation of the Glands, and boils in the gums & *burning* fever throughout the system I had hardly any wish of life but to lay it down at the feet of the Giver to whom sic Laus Gloria &c &c in secula, seculo^m!! Suppuration has reliev^d me of pain, but I am too feeble yet to travel. Soon as I regain strength, which will I hope be in 3 or 4 days I shall commence my Journey. As I shall zigzag it a good deal on the way I shall hardly be with you in less than a fortnight.

Yours, respectfully,

Mathew Carey Account Books, Vol. 33:5911, AAS.

DUMFRIES, August 1, 1818.

M. L. WEEMS RESPECTFULLY SOLICITS THE SUBSCRIPTIONS OF HIS FRIENDS, FOR Armstrong's Edition of Scott's Family Bible, IN SIX VOLUMES OCTAVO. TERMS OF PUBLISHING. [*Eight lines*] EXTRACTS OF LETTERS TO THE PUBLISHER. [Letters follow from Rev. Dr. Griffin, Rev. Asa Eaton, of Boston. Rev. Daniel Sharp, of Boston, Rev. Dr.

Holmes, of Cambridge, Rev. Dr. Baldwin, of Boston, Rev. James Winchell, of Boston, Rev. Dr. Dana, of Newburyport, Rev. Dr. Morse, of Charlestown, Rev. Dr. Sanders, of Medfield, Rev. Joshua Bates, of Dedham, Rev. Joshua Huntington, of Boston, and mention of letters by Rev. Ashbel Green, Princeton College, Rev. Samuel S. Smith, Do., Rev. William Rodgers, Philadelphia, and Rev. Joseph Emerson, Beverly] [51 lines in first column, 50 in second]

SUBSCRIBERS' NAMES. RESIDENCE. NO. OF COPIES.¹

THE HOLY BIBLE, CONTAINING THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS, WITH ORIGINAL NOTES AND PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS. BY THOMAS SCOTT, RECTOR OF ASTON SANDFORD, BUCKS, AND CHAPLAIN TO THE LOCK HOSPITAL. IN SIX VOLUMES. . . . Vol. I. *Sixth American (Armstrong's Second) Edition*. BOSTON: PUBLISHED BY SAMUEL T. ARMSTRONG, Theological Printer and Bookseller, No. 50, Cornhill. 1818.¹

[ELIJAH WEEMS TO M. CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 36.

GEORGETOWN. August 10th 1818.

Dr. SIR, . . . If my Uncle informed you I procured Arrowsmiths² from his son by your order he is wrong. As I borrowed them myself, and when in Phi^a last fall I returned them to you myself for Parson Weems, if you do not recollect it yourself Henry must — . . .

Your Obt. &c. &c.

[TO BENJAMIN WARNER]

GOOCHLAND Co^{ty} the 18 day of the 10th month 1818

ESTEEMED FRIEND, Thy letter of the last month tho' not before me is fresh on my memory. Thee did speak concerning thy Maps of Virg^a, as touching what I had done in the matter of the same. I have done but little because None were sent to me to Manage with, as I always and most rationally as honestly told thee. Now in furtherance of thy plan and wishes, if thee will for[*th*]with speak to Mathew Carey & Son for *whom alone*, as thee has often been advertis^d, I can do business; and they approve that I should visit all the counties in Virg^a before I go to the South (which perhaps were adviseable) then let them notify the same to

¹ Carey seems to have used this sheet of Weems' for many leaves of his account books at this time.

² Probably some of the works of Aaron Arrowsmith, the map-maker (1750-1823), of which the Lc. has a number.

me immediately to Dumfries, and I will as immediately order 10 of thy maps, with 10 of Melish U. S.¹ & 10 of his map of the world, to at least 40 to 60 or 80 counties; for verily I doubt not but that 10 to 20 of thy maps may be sold in each of the counties of Virg^a to that number at least. I pray thee speak to M. Carey & son directly. I am this hour from the Courthouse of the County as per date above, where my subⁿ. for Bibles, Maps, Davies sermons, and the American Triumviracy, i. e. Wash. Frank. & Marion were — at least equal to my expectations.

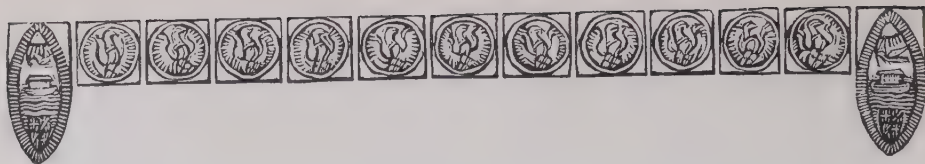
Has the excellent father of thy “pleasant Roc” & the Lovely Hannah, done according to all that was in his heart, and in his promise as touching the biography of Wm. Penn? I tell thee of a truth that if I live to finish it, Wm. Penn’s Biography will be read and perhaps wept over by many who call not themselves after his name.² I hope to be in Dumfries in 10 days from date. My love to friend Fisher,³ thy Lady, Hannah & thy family — and to Jacob and Benjamin Johnson. May the Lord remember you all [*for?*] good.

¹ *A Military and Topographical Atlas of the United States*, John Melish, Philadelphia, G. Palmer, 1815, LC.

² The first edition seen by me reads as follows: *The Life of William Penn, the Settler of Pennsylvania. The Founder of Philadelphia, and one of the First Lawgivers in the Colonies, now United States, 1682. Containing also His celebrated treaty with the Indians — his purchase of their country — valuable anecdotes of Admiral Penn — also of King Charles II, King James II, King William, and Queen Anne, in whose reigns William Penn lived — curious circumstances that led him to become a Quaker — with a view of the admirable traits in the character of the People called Friends or Quakers, who have done so much to meliorate the condition of suffering humanity. By M. L. Weems, Author of the Life of Washington, &c. Character of William Penn, by Montesquieu. “William Penn is a real Lycurgus. And*

though the former made Peace his principal aim, as the latter did War; yet they resemble one another in the singular way of living to which they reduced their people — in the astonishing ascendant they gained over freemen; and in the strong passions which they subdued.” Character of William Penn, by Edmund Burke. “William Penn, as a Legislator, deserves immortal thanks from the whole world. ’T is pleasing to do honour to these great men whose virtues and generosity have contributed to the peopling of the earth, and to the Freedom and happiness of mankind; and who have preferred the interest of a remote Posterity and times unknown, to their own fortune, and to the quiet and security of their own lives.” Philadelphia: H. C. Carey & I. Lea — Chesnut Street, 1822. (Bibliography, titles 148–154.)

³ Probably ‘Fisher Charles, printer III north Fifth’ *Philadelphia Directory*, 1817, LC.



It is largely a question of intensity, but differences of intensity may make one's whole centre of energy shift. — WILLIAM JAMES.

[TO JAMES MADISON¹]

LC.

RICHMOND, Jan. 22, 1819

VERY DEAR SIR -- I do myself the honor to send you a copy of the Life of Marion. It is already in the Sixth edition, and makes much noise in the Country. If you shou'd be pleased with *the Spirit* of Marion, and think that it ought to be universal among the youth of our Republic, you will do both them & me a great Kindness by giving us a line commendatory of Marion as a School book. My Life of Washington written for that purpose is now in the 21st edition; and from the demand for Marion I have reason to believe he will not lag far behind him. Please present my very best Respects to M^{rs}. Madison, to whom I have taken the liberty to send a paper for Doct^r. Hunter's admired work.² As the object of this book is so Divine, and its eclat so very extraordinary I feel confident that M^{rs}. Madison will not disdain to employ a portion of her great influence to circulate it among her numerous & wealthy friends — especially as it is somewhere prophecied that "*Queens shall become nursing Mothers to the church.*" Wishing you, both, many happy & useful years here yet, before you are call^d to your Celestial Patrimony. I remain Your sincere friend

M. L. WEEMS.

Compt^s. to M^r. Todd — cannot but hope that he will peruse with edification "Hymen^s Recruit^s. Serjeant!"³

[JESSE EWELL WEEMS TO M. CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 29.

[N.d. posted at Dumfries Jan^y 29th, 1819.]

DEAR SIR, As my father is from home and left my mother without money she requests me to inform you that she would take it as a great

¹ For Madison's reply see *Bibliography*, title 92, note 3.

² *Bibliography*, title 253.

³ *Bibliography*, titles 160 et seq.

1819]

LETTERS

favor if you would send her two hundred Dollars having promised to pay that amount on the first of February, Indeed we have no chance of paying of it as it is impossible to collect money, your compliance with the above request will greatly oblige as well as relieve the mind of my mother.

I remain D^r. Sir, yours respectfully

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 29.

RICHMOND Feb. 25. 1819.

SIR — . . . I am sorry you sh^d be writing such letters to M^r Heath,¹ when I am all the time, pushing thro mud & mire to get sub^a. & consider^g I can get a crowd only once a week generally, am doing good things, often 2 to 300 Dollars pr week. I begg^d you to send Books to CERTAIN PERSONS and . . . [*about 3 lines cut out*] very important address, which costs me much neglect of business, loss of time &^c. &^c.

I suggested the idea of sending 10 Bibles yellow paper in each box, but boxes of immense size are sent. This will cost trouble & loss of time & the Lord knows how many vexations. I have here also several boxes not number^d, and many without any catalogues. Had things been properly managed I might have done well. However Tempus fugit and all things & Ills will have an end. It were adviseable to send *no more boxes* but as directed. Wou'd God you wou'd have the boxes sent to Mess^{rs}. Pulliam & Swan,² on the Bason, Richmond. These gentlemen can send the boxes, every day, up the river so that I may lose no time, to come down after them.

Thro' haste I have fill^d up the back of the draft or check. You will paste on a bit of paper.

[*Unsigned.*]

¹ Perhaps Seth Heath, a Steward of Washington Street Church in Petersburg in 1822. See *The Story of a Church*, P. H. Drewry, B.A., p. 181, LC.

² 'By virtue of a deed of trust executed to us by John Allen & Joshua West to secure the debts therein mentioned — we shall sell at

public auction . . . on the 20th of this month, the House and Lot of Ground, At present occupied by Mrs. Allen, situated on the cross street leading by the Court House. Robert M. Pulliam, . . . Trustees. Richmond, July 2d, 1810.' *Virginia Argus* (Richmond), July 6, 1810, AAS.

*L. & F. Vol. 29.**[N.d. posted at Dumfries March 30, 1819.]*

My gig is at the door, and I wait, but to inform you that I have just recieved^d an order from a Virg^a Col^o. near Petersburg, for 20 Copies of "The Rules & Regulations."¹ . . .

Verily did you & Henry but know how truly desirous I am to be rolling in the Dollars on you — and how deeply heart-sick I am — even at this moment that I cannot be permitted to plunge thro the roads, wretched as they are — merely from fear that the Books are not come to hand — You w^d say no more to me about "*grumbling*." Did you send any Davies say 12 Copies to Moore, Front Royal? If you have omitted sendg invoices of *any* of the packages to any places order^d, supply that defecit immediately to Dumf.

*[Unsigned.]**L. & F. Vol. 29.*DUMFRIES. Ap^l 4, 1819

SIR — . . . Cou'd I but have taken Charlottesville on *Monday* & Lunenburg on *Thursday*, I sh^d have hit the thing exactly. *Such* Disappointments can hardly be more painful to the Wealthy M. Carey than to the indigent, yet resign^d

M. L. WEEMS.

L. & F. Vol. 29.

CUMBERLAND. May 25. 1819.

SIR. . . . I told you how miserably I have been *thrown out* this month — books *very partially* supplied — dreadful forced marches to distant places to get up sorry supplies by the Court days — I told you I had been mightily mortified at Buckingham — not a book arrived and yet 900 Dolls. subscrib^d. I was in this latter clause mistaken, not 900 but 1100 Dolls. most veritably have I got subscrib^d in that county which yet many people told me I sh^d get nothing in. I hinted the pro-

¹ *Rules and regulations for the field exercises and manoeuvres of infantry, compiled and adapted [from the French, by Major Winfield Scott] to the organization of the army of the United States, 1815, LC.*

priety of sending me 30 Sets of Hunter in addition to the 22 order^d by you — but I w^d advise 40 to 50 sets in addition — I having to that Am^t. I advised this, because, being about to part I thought I shou^d like to have thrown you in as much money as coud from a business so lamely & disastrously conducted, have been thrown in. But if you send them not, it will not offend Yours

. . . Write to Mr. Perkins to hurry the box on — as they will be look^d for by 2^d Monday of July term. This will make the 3^d or 4th Monday I shall WASTE at one court. O my God!

L. & F. Vol. 29.

CUMBERLAND, May 29 — [18]19.

SIR —

On the 13 sent	150
20	150
22	170
25	100
Now 29	200

Near 800 Dolls in the course of the month, wherein, hard as are the times, low the price of Tobacco & lower still the public pulse, tis like I shou^d have collected perhaps 1500 Dolls — had I but been supplied with the Books subscrib^d for. Am just from Nottaway, whither I dash^d to a Regimental Muster, for *more lack of books at Amelia Court House!!* I know that when you & Henry get together you can wonder and fret and scold at a high rate about *little done & slow remittances*. But what will you think when told that the box for Eggleston, Amelia, sent to Fisher, Richmond, and arriv^d there 5 weeks ago, to my *Occular Certainty*, is not reciev^d yet!!! Much of the money sent has been from working double tides i.e. *forc^d marches to distant places of deposit* to bring up in time, partial supplies. To conclude “The time,” as St. Paul says, “is short” — let us like men near the verge of Life bury all our little agitations in the dust. Smooth seas & good prospects are before us both. You have under you, a heavy 4 Decker — the Testam^{ts}. Old & New with Apocryp. & Concord. — with this Salvator Mundi you cannot fail to do gloriously. And I too with my little *Jury-masted Nautilus*, may yet catch a breeze. . . .

[To M. CAREY & SON]

L. & F. Vol. 29.

[N.d. posted at Charlottesville June 10, 1819.]

GENTLEMEN. . . . Well the measure of my disappointments is now completely full. O ye 40,000 Devils constantly crossing the trail of M. Carey & Parson Weems — (for printing Bibles & preaching Sermons I suppose) how fully have you accomplish^d all your accursed designs. During May & All the precious May (Quarterly) Courts [*I was*] *generally disappointed* in getting the Books — & now here at Albermarle or Charlottsville — Grand Quarterly Court — disappointed still! Not a Copy of Davies Sermons!! And yet the sub^s. tearing me to pieces.

Such disappointments! & such silence on y^r. part have so entirely consternated me that tho I have numberless sub^s. I have no spirit to say anything to you.

[To MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 29.

RICHMOND. June 18. 1819.

SIR — . . . If you have them [*Hunter's, and Davies's Sermons*] not, which you have never told me, tho' often intreated, I wish you cou'd get them *in exchange* & on with them to me; for I wish to wind up everything before we part. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 29.

PETERSBURG. June 23. 1819.

SIR. . . . I had the mortification yesterday to find in this place several boxes contain^g the very books I have been so long wanting — However, I'll try all I can to get them off. . . .

Got 100 Vol^s. Davies sub^d for yesterday in the vicinity of this place, where the people (the Merchants) seem as much frighten^d about the hard times, as so many water witches shot at.

Am this moment starting for Amelia.

L. & F. Vol. 34.

RICHMOND July 7, 1819.

SIR. . . . I am this moment arrived here — from Charlottesville the day before yesterday — that was the 3^d visit, & that but partially supplied with books. Tomorrow I start for Buckingham C. house — This will make the 5th visit — and yet but partially supplied — A Sixth visit at least will be necessary, perhaps the 7th before the whole will be arrived & distributed — as y^r. last box, sent to Geo. Perkins, is not yet come to hand — tho' I have driven post haste 70 miles since yesterday morning to get it. This is just that you may form some idea how all my zeal and some capacity (as this world is pleas^d to say) for this sort of business is render^d abortive — or nearly so. But it is all vanity — And a very few years will make us feel it the same whether we die worth a million or a mite. I mean when the last spade-full comes to be toss^d on our coffins.

Three weeks will close our connexion. You will let me know whether you w^d have the ballance of books sent back, or that I sh^d keep them on my own account on a liberal discount. As I may pass along here in a few days please write to me *immediately* to this place —

L. & F. Vol. 34.

RICHMOND [July] 24 — 1819.

DR. SIR. . . . Wet to the skin in yesterday's live long rain — Aguish & dry last night — & feverish & perspiring today I am just arriv^d here in time to save a mail. Today makes 3 months exactly since I left home — one 3^d of the time has been lost on disappointments — and yet I have sent you upwards of 2000 Doll^s hard as the times are — and this *principally* on an old 5 dollar collection of Calvinistic Sermons! What might I not have done had I but gone on getting sub^s. for some Heavy work of high popularity, as a Grand Geography, Hunter's Biography (to which in one county only I got 770\$!!) and without stopping to distribute, giving 5 pr cent to some good Commonwealths Attorney, or *Popular Presbyterian Preacher* to furnish the books for me & Collect.

This, together with several other strong sinewy strings to the bow,

all driving the well barb^d shafts to the mark, I can never think of without remembering y^r remark of a few mails past. viz. "*It is enough to make one's heart bleed to think that with our Capital & yr talents for getting sub^s. so little sh^d be done.*"

However I have now no time nor occasion to retrospect — Troja fuit — and there's an end. I set off in the morning for home to see a family that idolizes me & from whom I have been absent 3 months. I shall take a few days of welcome repose & then I have no objection to do y^r. wish of acting with you two months longer. I once had good friends in Heaven to aid me in persuading you, *most* opportunely, to undertake the PROTESTANT FAMILY BIBLE!!! You have done well by it. Had I but the same patronage there now, a still richer vein might be struck on. But as it is not right that one shou'd monopolize all, I have been non-suited by some Evil Sprights who have always been crossing my track. I shall be at *Dumfries* in a few days.

[*Unsigned.*]

L. & F. Vol. 34.

DUMFRIES, Aug. 10 — [18]19

D^r. SIR — . . . I counted on a few days of repose after such unparralleled fatigue in this insufferable weather; but the news of a Camp Meeting has broken my resolution and I purpose day after tomorrow to set out for it — in hopes of doing something, especially if the Devil get not permission to meet with & worry me on the way. Whenever I turn my thoughts retrospectively, I smell his brimstone. When Collins, in evil hour, for *him*, gave up the Fam. Bible — when there was no acknowledg^d Fam. Bible Printer in all N. Am^a. — and when I intreated you to grapple that Inestimable Galleon, what but Infernal Influence cou'd have kept you deaf to all my Enchantments, for TWO FULL YEARS? And Now, with all my Zeal, with all my Enthusiasm, with all my (what the world calls) *Eloquence & Address* with all my *knowledge* — (from the best of sources, *long & costly experience*) and also — with all your Industry so unremitted — your Patience so unexhausted — & your Capital 200 000 Dolls strong, what but a most Execrable & Infernal Influence cou'd thus have baffled all, and render'd every undertaking nothing but

a source of Disappointment & vexation! In a Country of such *boundless* Extent & *rapidly growing Population* — in a Country where the passion for Reading is rising with a flood beyond all former notice of Man — witness now that little peninsula from opposite Fredericksbg to the Bay call^d “*the Northern Neck*” altho’ I had sold 30 Bibles there, & the Rev^d Mr. Straughn had sold 20 more, yet I got an order 3 days ago from a wealthy & Popular Methodist Preacher for near 40 more!!! Oh cou’d there but have been time allow^d as I so often intreated, SEED TIME, SEED TIME, SEED TIME to sow for a large harvest — 1st Address^g. the Crowds & getting subscriptions, myself — 2^d. getting numerous sub^s. by good choice of Wealthy & Influential Agents — 3^d Establishing places, for sale of a *few popular* pious & low priced bibles — 4th. Getting orders, myself, for numerous books & also orders by young Lawyers, Physicians, Divines &c &c. 5th Establishing Circulating Libraries in great numbers of Neighbourhoods — 6th. making appointments to meet the People at their ten thousand churches, & addressing them on those Popular topics viz. the Pleasures & Advantages of Education, the exceeding Odium of Wealthy Ignorance, but the transcendant charm as well as the Riches & Honors which adorn Cultivated Minds. But alas! alas! alas! Instead of allowing *Seed time*, as I so often preach^d to you, for sowing & maturity of such glorious crops, you cou’d scarcely wait for me to go thro’ a dozen or fifteen County Courts, before you began to sound the horn to call me off. “This thing is not worth pursuing” — and “. . . *that had better be dropt — for Heavens sake send us some money. Remember Davies, Davies, Davies!!*” — Well, I break off, yes in the midst of my glorious career getting sub^s. — getting sub^s. far beyond all my own expectations, I break off just to perform the common functions of a common wood hewer & water drawer — presenting Tom, Dick & Harry his copy of Davies Sermons! And even this beggarly employment withheld from me! for on arriv^g at the Court house with a bosom beating high with hope of a Right Royal Collection for you, behold not a book come yet!!! On getting to another Court house the same death note sounded in my sicken^d ears! And when they do come they come in such *driblets* that [I] have just enough to whet appetite & make Disappointment more keenly felt, “Well,” says the sub “*I am mighty glad I’ve got Davies, but you know I subs^d for HUNTER, and where*

is that? — I subscrib^d for *Melish's Map*, where is *that*? And where is Scots Military Book &c &c.

Thus in Pennsylv^a. and thus in Virg^a., my life has been made a continual torment to me. And therefore, solemnly do I declare, (so strong is our aversion from pain) that rather than suffer such a life as this I w^d take a Carryall & confining myself to my own moralizing Scribblings, as, Washington, Franklin, Marion & my Looking Glasses against the Vices, lead my days in sweetly tranquil mediocrity. But I am willing, to go around, to all the Court houses &c and collect & sell all that can *promptly* be thus dispos^d of and send back the ballance. Then squaring the yards, and giving each other 3 cheers as become Pinnacle & Man o' War parting, wish one another a good time to the port of Rest. I am constantly call^d on for books — but leaving the rest as out of season now, if you can send — 30 yellow paper Bibles, to Rev. Tho^s. Thornton,¹ care of Mess^{rs} Jeffries Richmond County, Virg^a. — care of W^m. M^cDonald & Son Balt^o Did you send No. . . . 243–244 265 of the Law Catalogue, also Hubner,² Disquiset Justinianæ — Bynkerhook opera³ & Maryotts formulary for Mr. O'Riely, care of Cottom,⁴ Richmond?

I wish to hear from you on these subj^s. shall be back here (Dumf.) in 8 days.

L. & F. Vol. 34.

DUMFRIES. Aug. 10. 1819.

Dr. Sir. . . . I have been out about 14 weeks during which I have collected about 3000\$. This, the hard times consider^d, I look on as fit matter to exclaim, "*God be prais^d. Amen.*"

I must now rest myself, a few days, say 10, after that I shall let you hear from me again.

¹ Doctor Thomas Thornton was mentioned in a statement from Timothy Brundige of Feb. 10, 1800. See *Mathew Carey Account Books*, Vol. 14:4855, AAS.

² Probably Johann Hübner (1668–1731) on political history. LC.

³ Cornelij van Bynkershoek, jurisconsulti

& praesidis. *Opera minora, olim separatim, nunc conjunctim edita* . . . Lugduni Bata-vorum, apud J. van der Linden, 1730. LC. The LC. has also the second edition of 1752.

⁴ Peter Cottom advertised a Circulating Library in the *Enquirer* (Richmond), Mar. 18, 1815 *et seq.*, LC.

1819]

LETTERS

L. & F. Vol. 34.

CULPEPPER, Aug. 19. 1819

D^r. SIR — In my perigee towards the Camp Meeting aforesaid I call^d at this place where I pick^d up 70\$. . . .

Soon . . . I can come again upon the main track, clear of these little Up Country Zig Zag Post Riders. Everything convinces me that a Harvest of Incalculable Gold & Glory might be reap^d, — if, as I have always said, a good seed time cou^d be allow^d me. . . .

Yrs.

L. & F. Vol. 34.

LYNCHBURG, Sep. 11, 1819.

D^r. SIR — . . . The Dearth of money & moisture in this Country never known before.

L. & F. Vol. 34.

Oct. 4 — 1819.

D^r. SIR — . . . You talk of a *new arrangement*. I sh^d be happy to be made the Instrument of doing some Good to the World & to the Last Republic — I fear you will never let me do — what I have long wish^d. — i.e. to Benefit the World — to enrich you and to gain a moderate viaticum for the Family & Individual of

M. L. WEEMS.

J'ai 200 Gourds pour vottre firm — . . . Shall set out in 8 days to see you as desir^d.

L. & F. Vol. 34.

Octob. 8 [1819] DUMFRIES.

D^r. SIR — I am this moment arrived, in prime health, at place of date — and also this moment at Mr. Brundige's with 200 Dolls in smaller notes, which I cannot, for my life convert into transmissable paper — Mr. B — on whom I called, as also others, advis^d, that, as I was coming on so soon, (*Monday* or *tuesday*) by Steam boat too, I would not trust it by mail — but let you know that it *was coming*. You speak of a "*new*

arrangement & an advantageous" I pray you to have the propositions so digested as to create as little loss of time as possible. Wou'd you but follow MY PLAN, most morally certain am I that all former Discords wou'd be changed into Harmonies, and every loss into gain.

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BALT^o. Nov. 2. [1819.]

D^r. SIR. Pushed to this place as hard as I could — got here *last night* — Call^d, this morning, breakfasted with Gov^r. Ridgely — introduc^d the "AMERICAN SCENERY"¹ in a most flattering way but it wd not take — Waited on the Richest Merch^t in town — on a Celebrated Lawyer — and so on, & so on — but found nothing but chills, on chills. The truth is, the sight of a man with a subⁿ. book under his arm has for a long time been a Great Fright to the People of this as of all the American towns — And worst of all a 60 or 70 Doll^r Collection of *tame* paintings of Nature in her common every day Dishabille — and in this starved yellow fever^d Season!!! Oh it will not do! Critics here say that there is *no sort of* resemblance between M^r. Shaws Scenery & that of *Nature*, at least as far as relates to what is given for Nature about Balt^o. such as the Prospect about "*Jones falls*" & the Deathpile of "*Gen^l Ross*."

Thank God you have not bo't this work. . . .

[*Unsigned.*]

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GEO TOWN Nov. 11 [18]19

D^r. SIR — . . . From long experience I have found that the Bible is the best selling book in the world. And from the many little deposits that I have made, I have invariably found that the Bibles, especially the *lowpric^d*, have gone off at least in considerable measure. To derive a revenue from this fortunate circumstance is desireable & perfectly practicable, as follows, I am, you know, *by contract*, at liberty to make such establishments for sale of books of my own writing, as I

¹ Carey did issue this book in spite of Painted by J. Shaw. Engraved by J. Hill. Weems' comment at the close of his letter: Philadelphia, Published by M. Carey & Son. 1c. *Picturesque Views of American Scenery*, 1820,

may think proper, i.e. *safe* (not more than a dozen of each) I cou'd have only 4 or 5 of the low pric^d Bibles, there cou'd exist no doubt of these sell^g. and were I to make only 100 establishments (at *my own risk* observe) the annual amount to us both w^d be worth while. But it must strike you at once that to make these deposits at *my own risk*, which, under fair circumstances & *understanding*, I am very cheerful to do, will never answer with Bibles on which I am to have but 5 pr cent. For tho' I shall never leave a book, *I am certain*, with any one of whom there is the least doubt as to his ABILITY & INCLINATION to pay, yet all dealings of this sort are subject to some tho' rare disasters, & 5 pr cent w^d go but little way to indemnify. 'Tis true I see in Henry's Instructions, which I have as you may see, look^d into, it is agreed to give me 30 pr cent for miscellaneous sales. If this mean low pric^d Bibles that I may order at *my own risk*, I am content, and I can see *no reason* to doubt that to be the *meaning*.

Elijah desires me to assure Henry that he left with him all the notes for monies due in Georg^a. Henry thinks those notes call^d for as much as a 1000\$. But it is a mistake altogether. However I have the *names* of the *Debtors* & their *Amounts*, ergo there can be no loss.

In former disastrous years, you sent a box of Books, *Religious*, to be sold by the Rev^d Mr. Brackenridge,¹ now living at Rockville, Montgomery County Maryland. The monies for the majority of the books were paid to me & settled with you at the time — i.e. I suppose so. But here about 6 or 12 months ago, after repeated pressings for final payment of the ballance he (the Rev. Mr. B.) went & paid Doct^r. James Ewell 30\$ without *any instructions from me*, for I w^d as soon (as to chance of getting *it again for you*) have order^d him to throw it into the deepest channel of the Potomac. You will do well therefore to write to Mr. Brackinridge for immediate settlement of this affair. *He is rich*.

But to return — as to this cordon of little Bookstores at *my own risk*, they cannot I think be of any danger to you for you will from time to

¹ Perhaps one of the following: Rev. John Brackenridge, Presbyterian minister who preached often in the House of Representatives in Dolly Madison's time. See *Life and Letters of Dolly Madison*, Allen C. Clark, Washington, D. C., 1914, pp. 92, 186, LC. — Rev. James

Brackenridge, sometime the associate of the Rev. John Glendy, became pastor of the second Presbyterian Church, 1827. *Annals of Baltimore*, Thomas W. Griffith, Baltimore, 1833, p. 265, LC.

time be owing me money, & moreover, as I have after 25 years of a very laborious life a claim (by mortgage on Lands & Houses) for 5.000 Doll^s. all *very sure*, you can be in no danger for the small amount of books that I shall draw from you. But, if you have any views different from this, or from the stipulations *lately* made I have no objection to hear them. In two hours I set off for home & after a brief salutation shall, Deo volent push off on the *winding up business*. . . .

[*Unsigned.*]

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DUMFRIES NOV. 15 [18]19.

Dr. SIR. I am at length at place of date, where I arriv^d night before last, and shall, tomorrow morning set out on the *winding up business*. Loving plain dealing as I do, I told you that no great things are to be counted on untill I set out on the *grand tour*. I cannot get it out of my head that the eclat of 100 Plates will with most People render that Bible more ad Captand. than the Royal Quarto. At any rate, I see no reason why a trial may not be made, especially as both of these Editions are of a magnitude, as to price, that entitle them to our profoundest respect. Elijah is printing only 1000 Copies of my Duell[ist's] *Looking Glass*.¹ I hope that after due setting up of its rigging it will fall into its proper place in the *line*. I have begged Mr. Rob. Smith New York to send you a fair specimen of the *Frontispiece*, two of the Sable Sons of Ham, with stormy brows, looks of murderers, and hard gritted teeth drawing their triggers at each other like Devils & letting fly like h—ll. . . .

Elijah is printing me 200 show bills — you gave me 50 of all the Pamphlet frontispieces except the Drunkards — Please then send Elijah 150 each of the *aforesaid 4 varieties* & 200 of the Drunkards (The OLD LADY I prefer).

¹ *God's Revenge against Duelling, or the Duellist's Looking Glass; Exhibiting that Gentlemanly Mode of Turning the Corner, in Features altogether Novel, and Admirably Calculated to Entertain and Instruct the American Youth. By M. L. Weems, Author of the Lives of Washington, Marion, Drunkard's Looking Glass, &c.*

"Ridiculum acri melius et fortius, magnas plerumque, secatur res." — Horace. "For ridicule shall frequently prevail To cut the knot, when graver reasons fail." Georgetown, D. C. Published by Elijah Weems, for the Author. Gideon, Print. Washington. 1820. (*Bibliography, title 214.*)

Elijah desir^d me to inform you that he will print anything that you wish, (books or pamphlets) and will take it out with you in books (*American*) at 33 1/3. He will also *bind* books for you on the same terms. If you can't do better elsewhere, I shall be glad if you cou'd throw something in his way as he will *print & bind* at the Phila^{da} prices.

I have come to the resolution — as probably I told you — to push off the Pamphlets in groups, i.e. six together — in the stores (at *my own risk*) I find here 829, *in toto*. From their dates 1816–17 & –18, I suppose they must be yours. Elijah wish^d to put them up in half binding, but thinking you w^d rather have it done I send them to you, especially as they are lying here doing nothing. I wish you & Henry to keep this in mind that we are now getting into the way that bids fair to answer; and that like Persons not looking for a present trivial gain but a distant & ampler Harvest you shou'd keep an eye of undiverted attention on whatever may importantly affect this Business. Cookery, Farriery, Gardening, Agriculture are Sciences that interest everybody on that extended ground where my business lies, The COUNTRY, & if a paper on each of these subjects thrown together into a little Duod^o pamphlet, were sent to me, I think I shou'd put them to good use. At present I can't tell where you can write to me.

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DUMFRIES, Nov. 24, 1819.

D^r. SIR . . . This hour from Fanquier — collected 100 Dolls. But the scarcity in my family — owing to my constant practice of sending you every cent I coud spare, without thought whether I was in rear or advance to you — compell^d me to retain the other 50. Never was money so scarce as now. Some who had 100\$ perhaps 1000\$ due declar^d to me that they had not collected a dollar, and were surprised to hear me say I had done, *as they thought*, so wonderfully well. In two hours I dash for Leonard'stown &c &c *to wind up*. The following, I think worthy of y^r. attention. During the confluence of People at *the Courts*, nothing, I agree can be so important as to urge, by subscription, the sale of Elegant Bibles &c. &c. &c.

But as the Intervals of time are considerable, might I not vend for

cash or on credit to the WEALTHY & therefore very safe. Great Estates have been made, from the settlement of the Country, to this day, by stores of Dry Goods in the hands of Agents who well knew the Pecuniary circumstances of the People in the vicinage of the Stores. I say that immense Estates have been made in this — THE ORDINARY way. You have a horse here, I have one & the old stage you gave me, so that if you & Henry think this plan, under any new Modifications & Improvements that you can suggest, worthy an experiment it may very easily be made — without any additional expense to you — for I have a fine Boy of 14¹ whom I w^d take with me. Cheap & Elegant Bibles, Hunter, Davies, Wash., Frank., Marion, Harvey, with good works on Farriery, Gardening, & such pieces most Interesting to the Yeomanry — (The Mass & Majesty of the Republic) w^d be most ad Captand. But this is for yr own *Lucubrations* — as also is the attempt to establish Circulating Libraries in Public spirited Neighborhoods. You are I know, very fond of catching anything of the Enterprise Sort that promises either Utility or Ornament to Society — Witness the “AMERICAN SCENERY.” Let me then tell you that Hogarth’s Portraits of Folly in its progress a *pomo ad ovum*, as “THE RAKES PROGRESS,” “THE IDLE APPRENTICES DITTO” &c &c wou^d assuredly succeed in this Country; and by acting as powerful auxiliaries to the Correction of Morals, w^d add another very fragrant leaf to the Evergreen Chaplet that already entwines your brow. There remain many orders for books, never yet supplied tho’ repeatedly requested — The following may be distributed without any inconvenience before I leave the State for the South. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 34.

DUMFRIES Dec. 2^d 1819.

D^r. SIR — . . . I am going in two hours — on the *winding up business* —

¹ His second son and seventh child, Mason Locke (see *Appendix XVII*).

L. & F. Vol. 34.

GEORGETOWN Dec. 9, 1819.

Dr. SIR — . . . From the low price of produce, scarcity of the Cash — bad crops — & chilly autumnal air, they all look^d as if they were agoing to catch the Tertian [*fever*]. I counted on it as a lost day, — but got 'em all into their little bit of a Court house — made a speach & to my great surprise & equal pleasure, got about 100 Vol^s Davies sub^d. As I have met with no men noble minded like yourself I sh^d like to labour with you during the rest of my life — if peradventure we might (thro a divine smile) fall upon something that w^d repair both of our losses. But I fear you will never let me get on the right track. As I shall incur the tedious tortuosities of a Pennsylvania high way trip I fear I shall not be with you before Saturday night. However if you'll say an Ave Maria or two for me, I may do the better & get once more to the pleasure of seeing Mrs. Carey — I hope in good health.

[TO HENRY C. CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 34.[*N.d. after Dec. 9, 1819.*]

Dr. SIR. You & your very Learned father are eternally preaching to me against the mad policy of saving pins heads & yet squandering Golden Eagles; and still, all the time, you can reconcile it to yourselves to send me among the Proud & Wealthy Nabobs of the South in an old chair that w^d better suit to drag a Corpse than to bear the zealous Champion of Mathew Carey's Royal Quarto Bibles.

Why Gods mercy on my Soul, if Soul I can have after 3 days dashing in the streets of Philad^a, don't you recollect that the less People have of Soul the more they have of Sense. And by that token I declare, & if need be w^d *swear*, that if the Silken Sons of the Carolinas were to hear me in *their Court houses Squares*, spouting away, as I am wont, on the Royal Bible, they w^d pay 50 times more attention to me in a *handsome Gig*, than in a *beggarly chair*. Now, only recollect the difference between 50 & 1 in the returns made to you, — and add to this the Heroic Generosity display^d on my part of giving up 800 Doll^s. which I did sine remorse, and you will find a *Pleasure*, as it will certainly be a PROFIT, in giving me something neat to bear your name & Interests to the Southern States. —

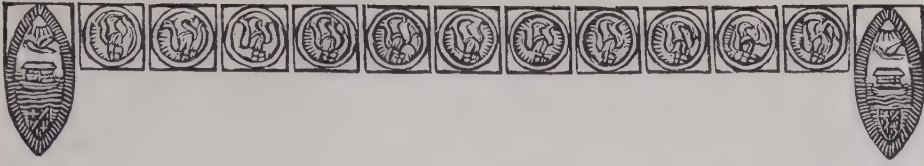
[TO MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 34.

RICHMOND Dec. 17, 1819.

Dr. SIR, . . . 'Tis pity we can't see with the same eyes. In my wide travels, & putting subⁿ papers for Bibles Hunter, Davies, &c &c. into good hands, I have a most charming opportunity of doing great things in that way with Guthrie's Geography & Elegant Prayer book — without the least possible injury to *the aforesaid*. And what surprises me the more at y^r neglect of this measure is, that it was so understood by us in Philad^a. . . .

But on my return from Mathews County, Gloucester, King & Queen to the Bowling Green I thought as there w^d be no 3^d Monday Courts in striking distance of Dumfries, & I had a number of sub^s. to Davies at Dunwiddie 90 miles distant I w^d collect all my scatter^d ammunition of that sort & dash off for the last nam'd place. God willing I expect to be in Dumfries by the 29th. You can, si il vous plaira, drop me a scribble. . . .



He . . . discovers his own character with that naïveté, that unconscious simplicity, which always constitutes genuine humour.
— EDWARD GIBBON.

L. & F. Vol. 37.

[N.d. received Jan. 15. 1820.]

D^r. SIR. The day, after my last to you, I fully expected to set out on my pleasant winding up business. But feeling myself a good deal fatigued and chill^d by much travelling in the late posts, I w^d rest a day or two longer. It then struck me that as the Court day at Stafford was at hand I w^d stay and collect (100\$) from the sub^a. But the day was so dreadful with clouds & snow & rain that scarcely any body attended & ergo I did next kin to nothing. I am now waiting for a box of Davies from Alexand^a which I shall get to night — & in the morning set out — I am like yourself exceedingly mortified that the *wind^o up* business goes on so slowly. . . .

And to speak in the language of that Candour which I have always *admir'd*, & in which I have been much strengthen'd by you, I hardly count on getting thro in less than 5 weeks. As to Hunter about which you ask me, I have put a number of papers into some of the best hands in our Country — and within this hour I have reciev^d a paper with many names on it — that was plac^d in the hands of M^{rs}. Madison. . . .

Elijah is eternally writing to me about printing an edition of Marion.¹ I begg^d him to write to you. Whether he so does or not, I wish you w^d write to him. I pass on thro' Culpepper, Albemarle, Buckingham &c. The D—I! why cou'nd't I have had 2 or 3 Quires of this prospectus for Guthrie to sow as I go! But Patience & shuffle the cards! You have already 300,000 times more of *this world's* property than you can carry with you to the next. Let that help to comfort. Sit nomen Dom. bene . . . [*torn*].

¹ I have not found that he ever did so.

*L. & F. Vol. 37.*FREDERICKSB^g Jan^y. 19. [18]20.

Dr. SIR. Never was poor Devil more toss'd about than I have been for 6 days past. When I wrote you, say, 6 days ago, I was just about to start. But, a few hours, antecedently, it struck me that I w^d run up to Georgetown to see how Elijah (no scholar & no Printer, but the best, or as good as this vile country can afford) came on with my "GOD'S REVENGE AGAINST DUELLING" which, as *you remember*, you told me, you w^d rather sh^d be printed here to the South than in Philad^a. The day after that trip, I started from home; got to this place, & lo! next morning (yesterday) my horse was lame. Instantly, I went off home, limping, to return the lame & get a fresh horse. Today I set out again & here I am on my way "*winding up*" But admitting this shoud cost us 6 or 8 weeks longer than was expected I see nothing very disheartening in it. I think we have now got on the right track, and if time be allow^d to get under weigh I trust, that we shall succeed.

If it shoud be found, on trial, that our present plan will not do, I am very willing to make any alterations for the better. That there is a "*modus in rebus*" I doubt not. And I am willing to probe about for it. I know of no debt I owe in Philad^a, but one of 28 Doll^s to young Mr. Dobson (son of Encyclopedia Thomas). If you w^d settle that for me, IMMEDIATELY, you w^d oblige me more than the worth of that amount. I set out in the morning by day break for Madison County.

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GEORGETOWN. Feb. 19. [18]20.

Dr. SIR. 7 days ago I got home — and 5 days ago left home again for this place to see the winding up of the "*Duellist*" which I told you was printing here. Owing to some horrible blunders by the Printer I have been detain'd a couple of days longer than I expected — Tomorrow I shall return home and count on starting immediately. One excursion more & I shall be ready to start wherever you & Henry may order. If on a few months trial after I fairly get out, you shou'd think you give me too much I shall have no Objection to another reef. If in a few months

more you sh^d find the times too starving for any profit from the connection, God forbid I sh^d object to dissolving it. I mean that, I venerate you so truly on account of your Noble Selectae vetiri Principles — and I have reciev^d so many flattering evidences of Confidence — and we have so often “*stretch^d our hands to the same shell*” — and We have been so long Partners in losses which may yet be made up — and you have such Resources; and so much Zeal — and we may do so much good to the World in our day, and in return may get so much Praise, and drink so much good wine, and after all get so much better a birth for it in heaven, that I am content, on any thing like reasonable living, to give you all my Industry & talents (or Fancy) if I have any to the end of the Chapter. But of all things that I have ever seen on earth, the roads are now the most intolerable. I therefore foresee with great grief that we must use Patience a little longer still. But as proof that I dont want you to be much a loser, I am willing, for what time may remain before I get out to the South, to be only on half pay, tho busy as I can be in winding up & also scattering into *best hands* our subⁿ. papers. The truth is I very clearly see that if it please God to let me have a year or two of fair play, after getting into good fix, with a reflux of the OLD GOLD & SILVER TIMES, we shall make money you may depend. A few weeks therefore, longer or shorter, in order to a comfortable, I mean a complete winding up can make no great odds. Let me hear the course you have marked for me. I send you a copy of the Duellist, tis horribly printed — our next edition may be much better — ’tis at present only in the block — an unfinished slab — a mere Promethean figure — not full limb^d nor of right dimensions — nor hard featured — nor Devil painted — nor indeed anything as it ought to be. I pray you to think of it. Henry, elegant as he is, & Edw^d the Prince of sweet boys may yet come to — the heart breaking of Mother & Sisters. You are public spirited above most men. And you have Judgment which I have not. We may save many a sleepless night & briny tear to Parents, Widows & children. I have a Nephew, a beautiful boy of 16¹ — a pretty little tract of land &c. He wants to live with you in y^r store till he is 20 on y^r own terms. If quite agreeable to you I sh^d be happy [*if*] you & H. w^d take & make a fine man of business of him. He is very capable. . . .

¹ Not identified.

I have sent no money because really such is the scarcity of that article that I have not been able to collect even from the best hands, more than w^d support the Family.

From the Great M^{rs}. Madison cou'd get but 20\$!!!

[ELIJAH WEEMS TO M. CAREY & SON]

L. & F.

GEO TOWN, Feb. 18th, 1820.

GENTLEMEN, . . . My Uncle has written you in regard to one of his Nephews, he is at present staying with me. I am appointed by the Court his Guardian, he is a Boy of industry, and unexceptional morals, has received a good English Education, and advanced nearly through Selec. Veteni[?] of very fine Talents, and if he was placed in such a situation, as under the care of yourself & Son, I am fully persuaded he would be a satisfaction and credit to you. I sincerely wish you would take him. I would bind him for 4 years — he can be sent on at any time.

GEO TOWN, March 15, 1820

GENTLEMEN, . . . also inform me in regard to M. L. Weems Nephew, who is a fine Boy and you may have him on your own terms; I feel somewhat solicitous about him as I have had an offer for my stock which I think I shall accede to — if so, I intend to pay all I owe, and turn my attention to the Subscription Business again, which would leave this youth out of employ — your early reply will singularly oblige.

Yours respectfully

[TO JAMES MADISON]

LC.

CHARLESTON, S. C^a. Feb. 20, 1820.

MI SUAVISSIME RERUM! —

MOST HONOR^d OF FRIENDS, This is just to tell you that the Life of W^m. Penn is launch^d and, thank Heaven, nearly half seas over — of the 1st edition. It is not for me to open my lips about it; but I am happy to know that sundry great men — of the Bench — also, to my huge amazement, of the Pulpit, are pleas^d to say of it — as Mr. Monroe at first reading of it said of my Marion — that, it is a book that *will travel*. However, be that as it may I have taken the liberty to send you a copy of it for M^{rs}. Madison, who I have been told was brought up a “FRIEND.” I had

hopes of coming myself to bring it to you — and for the same reason have all this time neglected to ask for the small ballance due of a little Religious Book Agency wherein Mrs. Madison was so public spirited as to aid me two years ago, — viz

2 Hunters Sacred Biog ^y	22
1 Life of Washington — for the Miller-Brown	1
1 copy Stevens French Wars ¹ — subscrib ^d for by M ^r . Todd ² — & sent to him by the stage	<u>16</u> 39

Now if you could be so GOOD as to order this to be paid by some friend of yours in the Federal dist — or Dumfries — or Fredericksburg — or Richmond — giv.g one single line of notice of the same to my Son Jesse Ewell Weems Dumfries, you will very singularly & seasonably oblige, yours,

with the utmost Resp. & Esteem

10,000 good wishes to M^{rs}. M & Mother &c.

[To MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 37.
DUMFRIES. Feb. 24 [18]20.

D^r. SIR — . . . in an hour or two I shall set out, on a short excursion; whence I shall return — see my Daughter ³ married on the 21st. and then start to the South to see, for the last time, whether it be possible to accomplish anything worth while. . . .

Friend Carey, it is time for everybody to be humble — Time was you

¹ ‘Stephens’s History of the wars of the French Revolution, 2 vols. 8vo. 6 00’ *Carey’s Catalogue*, 1818, LC.

² (James) Payne Todd, son of Mrs. Madison and John Todd; born about 1793, died about 1857; educated at an excellent Roman Catholic school in Baltimore; had a fortune in his own right; went with the special embassy to Ghent concerning the famous treaty, and thereafter travelled abroad for several years, returning just about or before the date of

Weems’ letter; bought an estate in Virginia, but spent much of his time in Philadelphia and Washington, or in wandering about; achieved little; an attractive ne’er-do-well, always much loved by his mother, but a keen disappointment to her. See *Memoirs and Letters of Dolly Madison*, edited by her grandniece, Boston, 1886, pp. 127, 165, LC.

³ His third daughter and fourth child, Charlotte Ewell (see *Appendix XVII*).

cou'd not think that the Protestant Bible w^d do anything. After two years incessant persuasion you undertook it & have made y^r fortune by it. Why did you succeed? Why, because there was much more Religious Principle & money in the Country than you had any idea of. There is still a great abundance of Principle & Wealth in the Country to make a DOZEN FORTUNES for two persons so singularly qualified as WE ARE. . . .

Why, my God Almighty, Sir! this plan, with the great advantages naturally growing out of it, ought to strike you — a man of y^r Quickness of conception & Judgment — it ought to strike you like a flash of Lightning. There are no dangers, worth notice, in it. Nor have you from the past one single ray of light to lead you *honestly*, to any mal-conclusion. . . .

The Duellist was printed, as all the rest, for you. Elijah, as I told you, takes it out in books (American) at disct, usual 1/3. . . .

To fill up the interval — Many who have read the Duellist say that We have taken up the thing right. I know it is utterly unfinished, but I see how it is to be finish'd. You have Read almost everything — & remember wonderfully — I w^d you w^d send in the box, order^d to Dumfries, some things that w^d strike. But if you w^d get good Caricatures, you w^d aid the cause you have so long advocated — The Good of Man. . . .

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RICHMOND Mar. 14 — [18]20.

D^r SIR — . . . In one hour I set out, in a Zig Zag way, for Dumfries, where my Daughter is to be married on Tuesday the 21. Soon as possible, I will set out to the South, if *you advise*. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 37.

DUMFRIES, Mar. 29 [1820?]

DEAR SIR — I am now ready to set out — The recent murders of the Mail Carrier with the frequent reports of such tragedies have so alarm^d my family that they will not consent that I should go such a distance without taking a Companion. My two horse stage is now getting ready

for the purpose. At first I had some objections but on reflection am persuaded it will be a great Advantage. I can carry many more of the Royal Quarto Bibles as also other Books which you can send to meet me in my progress. The young man I take will relieve me of much fatigue, so that I shall be able to continue my harangues to the Crowds at Court-houses to better effect — and shall be [*able*] to travel faster & in greater safety. In the interim, meanwhile my Stage is getting ready, I shall proceed, this morning, to two or three large Meetings of People as also thro some Neighbourhoods where I shall attend to the distribution of papers. I wrote to you 8 days ago — with the Affidavit you requested. I fear you did not receive it. I shall be in readiness to start for good & all by the latter end of the next week — by that time I can hear from you & receive y^r instructions as to the particular rout you may recommend. The Rev^d M^r Abercrombie informs me that you have two or three very ad Captandum Caricatures for the Duellist. Were it not adviseable to order the pamph^{ts}. from Elijah Weems's Georgetown, to Philad^a that the engravings may be inserted & the Pamph^{ts} sent with the others to places whither I shall order them? The sooner that this edition can be sent away the better. M^r Abercrombie thinks highly of it in its present state. but as I told you before, what y^r own excellent judgment & taste must have discover^d, it is now exceedingly imperfect and even *utterly unfinished*. It is, however, very capable of being rendered extremely *interesting*. And I am persuaded that you feel the strongest wish in the world that something shoud be done, as speedily as possible, to open the eyes of a Devil-Blinded world that they may see that the Spirit of Duelling in place of being a Sweet Gale from Heavenly Honor as is villainously pretended, is a Blast from *Hellish Hate & revenge* — e.g. Aaron Burr, &c &c. Wou'd you but spiritedly enter with me into these & *many other* ad captand. Pamphlets against *Popular Follies* leading to Vices & Crimes that bid fair speedily to realize all those Dismal Visions on which y^r eyes were fix^d when you wrote the *Olive branch*, I say w^d you but lend y^r Herculean Aid to these Objects you w^d reap from it a great deal of present profit & Eternal Pleasure.

M^r. Madison has sent me a letter highly flattering of our Marion.¹ I will send you an extract that you may print it if you think proper —

¹ Not found by me.

L. & F. Vol. 37.

Ap. 12. 1820. DUMFRIES.

DEAR SIR. I dont wish to drop the preface *Dear* when writing to an Excellent Man, even tho' he, from misprision of facts, sh^d drop it to me. And so I am again "*buckstering my own books*" contrary to the letter & spirit of true honor! I tell you tis a mistake, and just such an one as that I was charg^d with — of sellg "*Cottom's Farriery*." That I press^d Mr. Cottom to print *Mason's farriery*,¹ is very true, as I told you, but it was not for any other exchange but of *your own* Books such as Bibles &c &c thus identified & sold in another form — and that I have sometimes sold a copy of Washington, Franklin &c. but it was only when I had finished Davies — Bibles &c. &c. which as ten times more lucrative & sacred, have generally been press^d with ten times more earnestness. Indeed I hoped that I had done enough to keep under hatches forever all suspicions & spectres of that Goblin sort.

1st from 2000\$ I came down at once, by the run, to 1200 — within a fraction of a moiety! — 2^d. I told you, *oftener than once*, & now tell you again, as you seem to have forgotten it, that if, on a fair experiment, it sh^d be found that this cou'd not be paid me without manifest tort to yourself & Henry, that I was willing to come down lower, and lower still untill we had found the right notch, i.e. the FAIR and the HONORABLE. 3^d I told you that as the "*winding up*" business had consum^d much more time than was first guess^d at, I was willing to dock *one half* of my pay, from the first of Jan^y (the time fix'd on to start) untill I sh^d set out. In short I have always wish^d that we sh^d constantly keep in mind that — as we live in a Land of Liberty where a fair Opportunity is tender^d to the Philanthropist to erect a Mighty Fabric of Human Happiness — that as this requires a great deal of Political & *Moral Light especially* — that as the Press is a Grand Phosphoric in this way — that as you & Henry possess a number of Electrical Jars of this high character — that as I am, like yourselves, prodigiously enthusiastic in these things, and have often (in the Ossiantic phrase) stretch^d my hand to y^r Shell of Hospitality, I had infinitely rather cooperate with you than with any of

¹ Probably referring to the following, of *man's new pocket farrier*. . . . By Richard Mason . . . Philadelphia . . . 1873. LC.
which I have not seen an earlier edition: *Mason's farrier and stud-book*. New edition. *The gentle-*

the many who have courted my services — I have also told you that as we have at last gotten on the right track and with a fair prospect before us, of a long pull, & a strong pull, & a pull altogether that I did not deem the loss of a day or two or a week or two any great matter provided we cou'd set out aright. It now remains for you to say in what way you had rather I sh^d dash off. I have a gig, a carryal & a stage for two horses. This last, in my opinion claims the preference. 1st. *greater safety* — 2^d much more of Ease to myself, & consequently much more of freshness & strength to declaim & urge subscriptions. 3^d. The young man I take with me can vend your books as Wash. Frank. Marion, Bibles &c. &c. &c. 4. I can carry Royal Quartos & other Bibles for those who may wish, as is often the case, to purchase at once. But if you prefer the Solo, the Solo shall be my choice.

You promis^d me 100\$ pr month when I shou'd start — but, having a house, garden & firewood of my own for the family, I deem 100\$ pr month too much. I shou'd be content with 60 Dolls pr month for them — thus leaving the chief part of my salary in y^r. hands. These, with other things that might be cited, are mention^d as proofs of two facts, 1st that money is not the sole spring of my Zeal to circulate Valuable Books, & 2^{dly}. that I am willing with as little cost & as little risk as possible to you, to make another effort to recover past losses — farther the Deponent saith not. But if you feel any indisposition to go on with the propos^d experiment, you will please impart it, without the least risk of giving uneasiness to my feelings. If I cannot make this business profitable to you, I see no reason on earth why you shoud pay me for it. I am well pleas^d to learn that 5 to 600 Dolls have been sent you from the estate of the deceas^d M^r. Corbett, — Georgia — by Doct^r. Wray.¹ I hope also that Faulkner's Estate has or will soon, as Lawyer Cooke promis^d, do something handsome for you. Write to me as SOON AS CONVENIENT for I am ready to act — & the roads are getting to be good. I got home last night. . . .

Shou'd the Rev^d Mr. Abercrombie fall in y^r way please tell him that I owe him many thanks for his affectionate attentions to me; the mission

¹ Dr. Thomas J. Wray, one of the original *Georgia*, Charles G. Jones, Jr., LL.D., and Salem members of 'The Medical Society of Augusta, Dutcher, Syracuse, 1890, p. 252, LC. *Georgia*.' See *Memorial History of Augusta*,

of the 3 Caricatures among the rest. They are *excellent*. half a dozen, in that style, to each of the Looking Glasses w^d aid the sale of Myriads. Shall write to him.

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DUMFRIES Apr. 22 — [18]20.

DEAR SIR — . . . I am now ready to add that altho' I feel a good hope that, what with this new stock of *experience* on board & my old ballast & sky scrapers of Health & Spirits, I shall make a fine cruise by myself — as much prize money & more freedom — yet I am very willing to try our last plan, if it be but a 12 month. It may serve to ascertain whether we have yet a prize in the wheel, — if so, who knows but, by properly managing her favors (Dame Fortune) we may come to a Glorious end after all? I am as confident now, as I was during the two years that I preach^d to you about the great turn out of the PROTESTANT *Bible* — that very great & good things may be done in this last land of Liberty by men who sigh for the “fame that cometh after death;” and who knows that, “*without Virtue Life's but pain & Woe, and that without Liberty even Virtue mourns & looks around for happiness in Vain!*” . . .

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DUMFRIES. May 2^d. 1820

DEAR SIR. . . . I understand that you are to send to a few Seaports, directed to persons perfectly safe as I shall mention, small packages of Wash. Franklin, Marion & the Looking Glasses. — that, I am to send you, every week, the names of subscribers, also the *names, places of residence* &c of Gentlemen with whom I leave papers — and as to pay, that is fix^d at the reduc^d price as by last contract in Octob. with this difference that in place of 100 Doll^{rs}. pr month you have to remit but 60 or indeed I care not if it be only 50; & that for the three last months pay, I am content to drop it altogether. And I understand that if by giving it the fair trial of a SPIRITED COOPERATION this thing succeed, well & good; if otherwise, we *decline it forever* at the expiration of one twelve month from this date. You have nothing now to do but give yr assent to this, with anything supplemental that you may think proper, and I

set out at once and if the enterprize fail it shall not be my fault. You charge me with versatility for suggesting the idea of a light stage in lieu of a gig. I say, I suggested the idea, but did not insist on it. I now give you my reasons. 1 — The driver (on my own expense) w^d save me the fatigue of driving. 2^d by the help of a swinging Cot I shou^d enjoy a repose that w^d refresh & strengthen me for Business. 3 I sh^d go in more safety. 4th I shou^d move with equal rapidity. 5. I might carry a few copies of the 3 grand Maps that you approbated, viz Melish's Map of the U. S. of the World & of Virg. in toto near 40\$, and *by the bye* NOT FOR ME TO SELL *but to place one copy* in the hands of some one or two Wealthy & Influential Gentlemen in each County, to get subscribers, at the risk of the Proprietors of Melish & Warner to whom I once spoke — and 6 — the young man who goes with me might sell you 2 or 3.000 Dolls. worth of books *annually*. I say, all this was suggested to you — and no more — if you approve it not, let it be abandon^d. I only add, The World, (I mean of Booksellers) have somehow or other taken up an opinion of me, as high, at any rate as I merit. I shall not want the patronage of large Dealers in this way, to aid them in the disposal of their stock by sale, subscription, auction &c. But habit, well call^d a 2^d nature, is a pleasant path. My friendship has long moved in this path towards you & yr family. I prefer it still to the coldness of new connexions, especially as some *losses* are in the rear, which tho' not so fairly debited to me, I feel a very sincere wish to make up, — add to this, the growing population of the country — the multiplication of Schools — the increasing appetite for Reading — your great Stock — & my Enthusiasm, I feel a well grounded confidence that nothing is wanting to do Immense things yet, but the getting into a Right track. You speak of an "*Evil Genius that has me in his gripe*." Granted. But suppose that my two years intreaties with you to undertake the Protestant Bible had fail^d, and that Isaac Collins had started it again, with the almost monopolizing success of yr undertaking, to what w^d you have ascribed such lamentable neglect on yr part, but an Evil Genius? And can you imagine that the Evil Genius meditates mischief against none but Bible Enterprizes. I grieve to think that you & Henry will not open yr eyes to certain Grand plans.

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DUMFRIES, May 8, 1820.

DEAR SIR. If there was in my *long* letter anything offensive, it originated in a cause which, as, Honorable to you, cannot otherwise than be pleasing to me to hint — the truth is, I appreciate too highly y^r opinion of me as an honest man to consent that you shou'd, for a moment, entertain a suspicion of me on that score. And for the same reason, — a prodigious unwillingness to suffer a decadence in yr good opinion — I must needs remark on y^r. flying shots concerning Goldsmith that “I got it at *cost*,” that after taking it at y^r own discount on the work at 7.50, I started the price to 8.00 and gave you up the difference. This, your own Recollection will confirm. So you see I stand acquitted on that score too. As to the “*Splendid offers made to me by other Booksellers*,” I gave you no ground to charge me with bragging on that head. I only told you that the Booksellers, all, are pleas^d to think very highly of me. But this was said not as a vaunting of M. L. W. or a menacing of M. C. & Son, but as a *harmless prologue* to a 2^d or 3^d tender of my willingness, for one 12 month longer, to give this thing, on the present improv^d plan, a FAIR TRIAL. A fair trial has never yet been given it.

The first, a Goldsmith venture, did nothing, because on y^r part it was put too low — and for *me* being then in the grisette of my apprenticeship & trusting everybody, tho I did wonders in the subscription way, yet I'll take my oath I very narrowly escap^d the prison. As to the 2^d, a grand Armada that sailed to S. Carolina & Georgia, tho' nearly one half came to a good market, yet did it fail, because of a lamentable lack both of time & proper Books. The 3^d or Pennsylv^a Expedition fail^d — not for lack of Industry on my part or of numerous Sub^s, but from a most unaccountable neglect of sending on the Bibles, — whereby as you well know, I was driven to the horrible cost of time & money, to lug the Books about the country myself. The 4th. or Virg^a Coalition fail^d — not for want of sub^s; for on James River alone in 6 weeks I got near 2000\$ sub^d to the Sermons of Doct^r. Davies, but thro reiterated disappointment of getting the Books forwarded. This 5th. or last agreement *has not fail^d*. because it has not been tried yet, it has, and for reasons often mention^d, only been retarded. From one favorable feature in it, *exempting me from*

the distribution of the books, I cherish the hope, that, what with my own exertions & those of numerous personages of the first Wealth & standing in the Southern States, I shall do something perhaps, Great.

There is one article in our late contract, which, if you w^d but aid me spiritedly in, w^d afford a handsome revenue. You agreed that whenever I found a proper place, & a person of *Influence*, & *trustworthy*, you w^d send him a small case of the 3 Biographies & 6 Pamphlets. The popularity of these works, both because of their cheapness & their subjects, will insure to them a very extensive circulation. And the profit which you may make on them — printing Washington, e.g. especially on a large edition, for, perhaps 30 cents — & sell^s it for 100, [\$1.00] shou'd induce you to keep me well supplied. But the truth is I mean not to be very extravagant in ordering them — and *never, never, never* but where I see my way perfectly *safe* & *promising*. And as I have agreed to leave *two thirds* of my salary in yr own hands — as you promis^d also to allow me at settlement some small premium on whatever you sold of *my own writings* — & as I am worth at least 7000 Doll^s., Elijah thinks 10,000; I see no ground of fear that you will run any risk. To accumulate Wealth by multiplying the means of that Moral and Political Light which alone can preserve the LAST REPUBLIC ON EARTH, is, in my mind, one of the highest honors & pleasures that Heaven can bestow on the most favor'd Mortal. And when I think of yr Judgment & my Zeal; your Resources & my Enthusiasm, I feel not the least doubt that if a FAIR TRIAL cou'd be made, &, as I have a thousand times said, a proper seed time cou'd be allow^d, a steady distribution of 200\$ pr day might be made all the year round. Tomorrow I set out to Alexand^a to meet a Convention of the Clergy with the Bishop; presenting a favorable opportunity to push Hunter both by subⁿ. & placing papers in some of the most proper hands in the State. I count to be *back* by Saturday. Let me have a letter from you ad longum.

NB. Candour & Decision are my Delight. You will therefore speak of yr *own wish* and be assur^d it shall be *my Pleasure*.

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ALEXANDRIA May 9, 1820

Dr. SIR — . . . *My Dr. friends, M. Carey & Son, if you think that my little Bark deadens your way to the Coasts where Gold & Diamonds grow, cut the tow rope soon as you please. Nautilus like I can spread the puny sail & oar & wander fearless o'er the "Vasty Deep!!"* But tho' I thus feel & assert my Independence I am still not ashamed to add that I am very willing to give, as I said before, our oft abortive plans — what they never had before — one 12 month's FAIR TRIAL. I tell you this, not that I am a Lazarus at yr Gate, and in Danger of having the Dogs around me, piteously licking my Mendicant ulcers nor do I tell it you because I lack overtures & Importunities from *Large houses* — But I now tell you as I have frequently before, that I feel more of Hearts blood & inclination to cooperate with you & Henry than I think I shou'd ever feel with anybody else. I Honor M. Carey's Talents and his Seasonable & Spirited Application of them to the Best Interests of this Country; & thro' this Country, to the Whole Human Family. And, besides my adoration of his incorruptible honesty, (often giving me credit for large monies that I knew not of) I feel much tenderness for his family — Add, to all this, another motive which tho' at first glimpse it may look more Selfish is not less Laudable, your Resources & Industry are of that HERCULEAN character that if they cou'd but once be bro't into what, I WELL KNOW, to be the right train, w^d chase many a thousand Gorgon & Hydra of Ignorance, Vice & Misery out of this Infant Republic. I am so SENSIBLE of this that, if you will but *dedicate* $\frac{1}{2}$ a day calmly & dispassionately to hear & weigh what I can say on the subject and at any SALARY that you yourself shall fix, I shall be willing to come to Philad^a to *talk over, more perfectly*, this Subject — tis an important one — and this at no other expense to you than a couple of dollars a day for my Travelling expenses. . . .

I pray you, for God's sake, be full & explicit — you have made me lose time enough already. Write to Dumfries.

[M. L. W.]

'AN INTERESTING CRITICISM, *on a very interesting Author and Work.*
 "Few authors have been more successful in attracting the attention of

the public to their publications than Dr. *Hunter*. . . ." Parents who wish to see their children enriched and adorned with all the angelic and happy, that celestial spirits created in the similitude of God are capable [*sic*], will no doubt be gratified to learn that a work so singularly calculated to do good, is now printing in this country, in the 16th edition. N.B. Mrs. Madison,¹ Bishop Moore,² the Rev. Messrs. Wilmer, Norris, Muir, and Andrews, of this town, with many of the most distinguished Preachers in all the Protestant churches in our country, have recommended it in the strongest terms. A subscription paper is left at this Office. Those who procure nine subscribers, and become responsible, shall have the [c]loth copy gratis. Any friend to the morals and happiness of mankind, who thinks he can obtain 9 subscribers, will oblige by calling on M. L. WEEMS, at the dwelling of Mr. HENRY SLADE.³

Alexandria Gazette, May 12, 1820, AAS.

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 37.

BOWLING GREEN May 13 — [18]20.

Dr. SIR. . . . But still [*I*] think & shall forever think that the *Moralizing & Popular Biographies & Pamphlets*, put into safe hands & well-chosen places, w^d afford to M. C. & M. L. W. the exceeding advantage to be derived from adding the gains of 500 Sellers to those of *one* Subscriptioneerer. Stereotyp^d the profits w^d be immense to M. C. & Son; and to this young Republic, by shewing the downward course of Vice & the heaven climb^s steps of Virtue, the Benefits might be inconceivable. . . .

Woud it not be well to put Clay's Caricatures into the "Duellist" & send them on to different places — 100 to Dumfries — 200 to Richmond — 200 to Alexandria &c &c. NB. Vesey engages me to Norfolk &c &c. The Atlas back "si quid novisti rectius cond. imperti"!

¹ Though Weems wrote to Carey, Mar. 14, 1820, that Mrs. Madison had sent him a paper (presumably for subscribers' names), and on Mar. 29, 1820, 'a letter highly flattering of our Marion,' those documents have not been found.

² Moore, Richard Channing, born 1762, second bishop of Virginia (elected bishop 1814

and served until death, 1841), and fourteenth in succession in the American Episcopate. See *The Twentieth Century Biographical Dictionary of Notable Americans*.

³ The husband of Weems' daughter Charlotte (see *Appendix XVII*).

*L. & F. Vol. 37.*ALEXAND^a. May 14 — [18]20

Dr. SIR — I send you this mornings Gazette; because it contains a little flourish¹ concerning one of y^r books, Hunter's Biography. As y^r answer to my last was order^d to Dumfries, I am ignorant whether you mean to continue or close our Connexion. As relates to my pecuniary interest, on the main, I do not know that I ought to deprecate y^r adoption of the latter. But as concerns my feelings & my Pleasure I do really wish the connexion to continue and back^d with the Spirit & Energy of a Wealthy & Patriotic Man who saw things in the light I do. My God! to think that with such a stock of knowledge acquir^d from 30 years of dear bought Experience — with such a heavy charge of double ff zeal & Enthusiasm to spread that holy light of Morals & Politics, which best, and indeed alone can chase the Demons of Ignorance, Vice, Discord & Damnation from this young Republic — with such a Talent (so the Good natur^d world says of me) for getting subscriptions to books — with such a flow of spirits to address the Gaping Crowds (whether marshall^d on the Regimental muster Greens or pressing, thick as wild Turkeys, on the Court house pavements) on the advantages of Education — and the worth of Books — with such Health & unbroken nerves — such an Extensive acquaintance — such growing popularity, because of my moralizing productions — such *rare* opportunities & eagerness to establish Reading clubs & little Public libraries — such capacity for *Auctioneering* books; for recieving orders — for putting subⁿ. papers in the safest & most influential hands — and such fair chance for daily sales, by an attentive young man travelling with me, I say that with all these advantages & some *others still more important on my side of the house* — and that, on yours, there sh^d be such *Resources* — such *Patriotism* — such *Philanthropy* — such *Industry* — such *unequalled capacity for business* — and yet! and yet! and yet! O Heavens! that these Mountains of Means shou'd not in 12 years have bro't even a mouse to market! In that time several schemes have been started but not one properly organized & fairly tried, except this of t'other day, and this, because, for reasons often stated, *somewhat delayed*, is in danger of being broke up —

¹ See p. 272 for the article.

I say, that beside this not one has been properly plann'd — and therefore no fair trial has been made of this all important subject. That a man of yr mind, Mr. Carey, sh^d have taken such an Inveterate Prejudice against *small & well chosen* bookstores, because very large & *ill-chosen ones* failed, is to me as unaccountable as anything I ever met with. That some People scratch^d by a black cat or sucked by Tartar in a cup of coffee sh^d never afterwards be able to bear the sight or smell of these harmless things, is, I agree surprising, but not half so much so as the prejudice you have suffer^d to be rivetted on yr Sagacious & Herculean mind, against the trial of well selected books, because those of an entirely different description did not sell well. Will you collect resolution to read the following. I am, we will suppose, at a court house, where I get 150 to 200\$ subscrib^d *myself* — and papers for Bibles &c put into safe & influential hands that may get to as large amount . . .

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DUMFRIES, May 16, 1820.

D^r. SIR. Mr. Clay¹ has executed the designs for the Duellist,² so much in the style of Bunbury,³ that you w^d do well to let him try his hand on some few of the cases in the Drunkard's Looking Glass, that best kindle his fancy.⁴ . . .

Well if you will only put these moralizing pamphlets into a handsome garb & let me have them cheap, I'll run a great many of them for you at my own risk. I don't think you ought to decline the *Order* business. I might, at nights & other times get a great many orders; especially if you w^d have 10 or 12 copies of the Folio Catalogues done up in pasteboard & sent to me to Norfolk. Send me 50 of the Duellist with the plates. . . .

¹ Edward W. Clay, 1792–1857, engraver, lithographer and caricaturist of Philadelphia. See *A History of the Rise and Progress of The Arts of Design in the United States*, by William Dunlap, Boston, 1918, Vol. III, p. 290; and *American Engravers upon Copper and Steel*, by David McNeely Stauffer, 1907, Vol. I, Part I, p. 50.

² The second edition, 1821 (*Bibliography*, title 215).

³ Henry William Bunbury, 1750–1811. A British illustrator in vogue; some of his work may be found in *Angelica's Ladies Library*, London, 1794, and in *An Academy for Grown Horsemen, containing the completest instructions for walking, trotting, cantering, galloping, stumbling, and tumbling* . . . by Geoffrey Gambado.

⁴ I have not discovered that Carey followed this suggestion.

Remember that the Atlas ¹ & Vesey ² are only for the Few, Wealthy, Learned &c. the Bibles, Hunter & Davies & my own Little Affairs are for the Million. ergo ponder on these *two latter* articles.

And as to Davies give him not up for the World — he is the Idol of the Nation, in some shape or other you must by all means have him. Without Morals in our country we are a gone People, & where can morals stand without Rational ideas of the Deity & his Government?

[To JOHN MELISH]

L. & F. Vol. 37

DUMFRIES, May 17 — [1820.]

DEAR SIR — . . . I thank you for the Sentiments, express^d in yours so favorably of my “Honesty.” My CREED on that score is very short & portable. You might stow it away very conveniently in a Midge’s pocket book — compar^d with “The *Apostle’s Creed*” it wd look very like Peale’s famous mouse under his mammoth — 1 — I believe in God — 2^d I believe that He is Love — 3^d I believe that he desires my *Happiness* — 4 — I believe that he has founded *this* in Honesty.

Mr. Carey & myself are to run together one year longer. Wou’d he but follow my plans we sh^d run together for Life, and *greatly*, I’ll take my oath, to his *Glory & Gain*. He is your friend — he sees that you are pressed down somewhat. “*The lightning of his steel*,” according to Ossian, “*is always with the weak in arms*.” You can very easily persuade him to let me give you a good lift without the least injury, but rather a Benefit to himself. I set out in 6 weeks for the South where there are many wealthy and generous People. I take a young man with me. Without ever asking a subscription myself; but barely by putting a paper & a map into the hands of some Gentleman of *well Establish^d fortune, Integrity & Influence*, I coud I suppose, sell for you & Mr Carey from 1 to 3 or 4000 Doll^{rs}. pr an. If this *prudently selected* Gentleman get no sub^s. he is to pay for the Map in 6 months — if he get 10 he is to distribute, collect, & get his map gratis. As Mr. Carey will by this *clear* 15 pr Cent in the 12 & often in 6 months I think he will accede to the

¹ By this time Weems was probably referring to Lavoisne’s *Atlas* (see note to letter of June 15, 1820).

² *Reports of cases argued and determined in the High court of Chancery*, Francis Vesey [Sr. and Jr.].

proposition. I am happy to find that yr smaller maps are rising into notice. If Mr. Carey will aid you as above, which I pledge my Honor will be no interruption of his business in my hands, you will let me know it by letter to Norfolk whither I am, this hour, about to start. I presume you exchange with Mr Warner for his Map of Virg^a. I am call^d on for that work. If you cou'd send me, immediately to Richmond, care of Cottom, Bookseller 4 of that map in a box thin & light, I cou'd dispose of them. You will please shew this to Mr. Carey; also note that altho the persons into whose hands I may place y^r map for getting Sub^{ns}. will, I *firmly believe* be just as *honest & trustworthy* as Mr. Carey, yet, as I told you & also Friend Warner who acceded to it, I will not be responsible. But it w^d be a sad thing indeed if after my long & sometimes costly experience, I could not select *one* man in a large & *wealthy county*, that might be trusted with a Map.

Yours aff.

. . . The truth is that hardly anything has ever been done by Mr. Carey & myself, because we are hardly embark^d before we get to misunderstanding & wrangling. But, as this is to be the last trial, I hope we shall now go on smoothly. . . .

Yr friend.

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 37.

RICHMOND. May 22. 1820.

Dr. SIR — . . . As I shall probably have to go, for you, thro' this & many other States waiting on the Gentlemen of the Bar, might not something be suggested to render my perihelion as productive as possible? After a thing was done men have often wish^d they had it to do *over again*. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 37.

RICHMOND. May 25. 1820.

Dr. SIR, . . . I wish you wd write to Mrs. Weems that in 3 or 4 weeks, you will make arrangements to let her have 50\$ pr month. I told you I sh^d not want it immediately — 3 weeks hence will do. I hope when we get all our sails to draw we shall make a good way.

L. & F. Vol. 37.NORFOLK. June 1, 1820.

DEAR SIR . . . However I shall dash on with prodigious spirit when I quit this miserable place. . . .

[To M. CAREY & SON]

L. & F. Vol. 37.RICHMOND June 15, 1820.

Dr. SIRS. . . . When I am at a Court house, among a great many people, I feel a wish to multiply subscriptions as largely as possible. And after waiting on the Gentlemen of the Bar for Vesey & on the wealthy for Sub^{ns}. to [*the*] Atlas,¹ I make a harangue on Hunter, as at Isle of Wight, last week where I got 80 or 90 Dolls. subscrib^d in a few hours. And also when I am at a Court, say on *Thursday* & know that the Court of a neighboring County will sit on the Monday following, I feel sometimes at a loss how to act — whether to abandon the oppor^{ty} of collect^g sub^s. there, or to improve it. In your next, say to Dumfries, let me have y^r. advice. Heaven knows that I wish to do everything on the most profitable plan. . . .

[To MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 37.RICHMOND. June 20. 1820.

Dr. SIR — You are longing for a letter — Well here's my track — Five days ago I got to this place where I staid but one night — on my way to a Court in the Country — even old Powhatan. This I did for Vesey Jun^{rs} sake — that I might learn how the pulse of the Rural Lawyers beat towards CHANCERY CASES.

Seventeen Lawyers! & yet O Miserable! not *one cou'd* I get to subscribe. But still no despair for I believe that our friend Peter Cottom had — the moment he heard what I was after — sent word that he shou'd have the WORK FOR SALE!!!

Well I got back on Saturday. Yesterday morning I began with the Grand Atlas — found the People immensely down in the mouth. One out of 4, quite panic struck & cou'd do nothing.

¹ *A Complete Genealogical, Historical, Plan of Le Sage. . . . by M. Lavoisne . . . Chronological, and Geographical Atlas; being a Philadelphia: Published by M. Carey & Son. General Guide to History. . . . According to the September 1, 1820. (Bibliography, title 254.)*

A 2^d 4th had resolv^d never to subscribe to any Book. A 3^d 4th. counted on the AUCTIONS where they had always got Books at *half price*. And a 4th. 4th. hated the very sight of a man with a subⁿ. book under his arm. I immediately threw something into the paper. It came out *this morning* with a something (fictitious) which you will see in the 2^d column of the 2^d page of the Patriot¹ (Richmond) which I herewith send you This I immediately follow^d with personal application — & I got

Chief Justice Marshall 1 copy	25.00
Major Gibbon ² 1 copy	25.00
Miles Macon (rich as cream)	25.00
H. L. Wight ³ — Richmond	25.00
S. Jones, ⁴ Tobacco Manufacturer	25.00
	125.00

I shall dash on tomorrow

[M. L. W.]

‘TO THE EDITOR OF THE VIRGINIA PATRIOT.

SIR—I beg leave on the wings of your “flying folios,” to convey to the parents of youth aspiring to literary pleasures, the following letter, which, it is hoped will repay the few moments spent in perusing it. It is from a Lady of Virginia whose superior MIND and acquirements have placed her very deservedly, at the head of one of the first academies in the State for the education of young Ladies. Republics can never sufficiently honor the instructors of the female sex. When education begins with them, it begins at the right end. As long as the young Ladies remain ignorant,

¹ See article following.

² Major Gibbon, an officer of the Revolution, and ‘distinguished early in life as a leader of one section of the forlorn hope at Stony Point, in 1779. He was for many years Collector of Customs for the port of Richmond, and resided at the corner of Main and Fifth Streets.’ See *Richmond in By-Gone Days; being Reminiscences of An Old Citizen* [Samuel Mordecai], Richmond, 1856, p. 96, LC.

³ *Ad.* ‘Strayed from the city of Richmond . . . Mules . . . A generous reward . . . Hez. L. Wight. Richmond, Dec. 1, 1797.’

Virginia Argus (Richmond), Dec. 29, 1797, AAS.

⁴ ‘Notice. — Application will be made to Branch & Howlett, inspectors of Trent’s Warehouse, in the town of Manchester for the duplicates of notes for four hogsheads of Tobacco, which have been lost — . . . Samuel Jones. June 18.’ *Virginia Argus* (Richmond), June 18, 1812, AAS. — Cornerstone of the first public school in Richmond laid June 27, 1816, by Worshipful Samuel Jones, Master of Lodge 10. See *Richmond, Its People and Its Story*, Mary Newton Stanard, Philadelphia, 1923, p. 92, LC.

the young Gentlemen will be sure to remain ignorant too. And while the former can roll their fine eyes in extacy, only of ribbons, shawls, and bonnets; the latter will, no doubt, be equally grovelling in their ideas of the accomplishments necessary to please. But let the girls be brought by education, to learn the value of MIND, and to relish the Divine pleasures of KNOWLEDGE, and the young Gentlemen will soon get out of conceit of their Wellington boots and fine jackets, and take to reading and intellectual improvement, if it be only to recommend themselves to their *angel* acquaintance. However we have done our part — “*the word to the wise*” — and now for the letter.

[Unsigned.]

SIR, You are pleased to ask my opinion of “Le Sage’s Grand Atlas,” lately translated from the original French, and reprinted in London, and now by M. Carey & Son reprinted in Philadelphia. In reply, I feel no hesitation in saying that I never saw any work of this kind that I could half so cordially recommend as this. In all other atlases, we see nothing but the naked maps; but in this we behold those maps illustrated with tables so ingeniously arranged as to display not only the natural and artificial memoranda of all the countries of the earth; but also the history of the nations inhabiting them — their *origin* — government — laws — religion — wars — celebrated battles — signal victories and defeats — important revolutions — awful overthrow of empires — extraordinary rise and fall of nations — with numberless other MEMORABLE EVENTS, forming, on the whole, a grand panoramia of universal geography, and history of mankind from the creation to the present day, and exceedingly more amusing and instructive than any thing I have ever seen. Soon as I saw the plan of this work advertised, I sent to New York and procured a copy of it; so that what I have said is from an intimate acquaintance with its contents, which I value so highly that I daily use it as a text book for the young ladies in my academy and as an a[d]mirable help to the study of HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, and CHRONOLOGY, it certainly merits the first place in all schools and private libraries. It is but justice to M. Carey & Son to add, that their edition of this excellent work, though proposed to be greatly improved by the addition of several maps and much valuable matter, especially of South America and the United States, will cost still much less than what I paid for a London Copy.

A. W. S——.

We have examined the celebrated Atlas alluded to above; and as a guide to history and geography, we consider it a most invaluable ap-

pendage to the library of every public institution, and private gentlemen in the U. States.

JOHN H. RICE, *1st Presbyterian Church.*

JESSE H. TURNER, *D D.*

CHILES TERRELL, *Teacher of Languages, Richmond.'*

Virginia Patriot, and Richmond Daily Mercantile Advertiser, June 20, 1820, VS+L.

Reprinted with slight changes as well as additions after 'angel acquaintance' as follow:

[*M. L. W.*]

'But besides this almost divine honor which a girl of finely cultivated mind acquires by this [*thus*] enlightening and exalting the character of the gentlemen, it should never be forgotten what a wonderful effect it may have on her own fortune and importance in life. What young woman has not heard of Miss Ann Smith? And yet who was Miss Smith originally but one of the poorest girls in Maryland — an humble dependent on the charity of an aged grandmother? Hardly had she attained her twentieth year, when her grand mother died. And now, possessing neither beauty nor fortune, what would have become of this helpless young female had it not been for a liberal education, which, to her immortal honor, she has acquired, chiefly by her own great industry and early passion for learning. She opened a school in the country. Numbers of rosy cheeked little ones resorted to her for instruction. Selecting their lessons with skill and sweetening them with all the charms of a sister-like tenderness, she conducted her little pupils along the flowry paths of learning with a rapidity that rendered her the talk of the neighboring country. A larger school house was presently built for her. The fame of her usefulness taking the wings of the morning, she was invited to the distant county of Rockbridge, in Virginia, where a handsome acedemy was erected and called after her name. And now while numbers of uneducated fair ones, who have began the world with great estates; have fallen into poverty and neglects this orphan girl, after diffusing the treasure, of science to polished hundreds is, I am informed, worth not less than fifty thousand dollars!

But if female education has done such wonders in the "green tree, then how much more in the dry?" When deprived of their husbands by death, and left with large families, and small fortunes, how often has the widowed mother, pressing her babes to her bosom, and strengthened by the holy embrace — how often, I say, has she called into requisition

the literary acquirements of her juvenile days; and from that unfailing bank derived, abundantly, the means of bringing up her children to [a] useful and happy life? Among numbers, thank God, of this honorable class, it is felt, in some sort a duty, to mention the excellent Mrs, Jane Taylor, sister of the Chief Justice . . .

[*Unsigned.*]

Followed by a letter of recommendation of Le Sage's Atlas addressed to Weems signed *A.H.* and by a note, unsigned but his own, giving other names.

City of Washington Gazette, July 12, 1820, LC. Reprinted with changes,
National Intelligencer, July 20, 1820, UN^YGA.

[To M. CAREY & SON]

L. & F. Vol. 37.

June 22. [1820], RICHMOND.

Dr. SIRS. . . . You once promis^d me, tho' perhaps you & Henry both have forgotten it now, that if I w^d get a rapid horse you w^d pay for half. If you have not forgotten it you w^d find it to yr account so to order it, for my horse now is but a poor Animal. Hope to be in Dumfries in 5 days taking FREDERICKSB^g in the way.

[To MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 37.

FREDERICKSBG. June 28 — [18]20

Dr. SIR — This Atlas wd do wonders, were it not that so much of it, is taken up with *European Genealogies of Great Families* highly offensive to many. Such minute details of Petty Lords who for so long a time have been oppressing the human Race, are disgusting to some, & utterly uninteresting to Others. . . .

[To M. CAREY & SON]

L. & F. Vol. 39.

ALEXAND^a [*n.d. after June 28, 1820.*]

SIRS — . . . I intreat you *always* to send the *cheapest* — provided the *latest & best editions*. . . .

While writing this I reciev^d. the enclos^d order which I intreat you by ALL THE GODS — CELESTIAL, & TERRESTRIAL, & INFERNAL to direct to ME M. L. Weems at Dumfries — not omitting ONE and to do this IMMEDIATELY. . . .

[*M. L. W.*? ¹]

'*Monsieur Printair* — *Sair* Von gentlehome, dat call himsel *Monsieu G* — he rite in yure papier sometime ago, bout vat he call dat stink hole, jus beloe de *Union Taverne*, *Sair*, his onare de *Mare*, and de grand divan, dey ave de grate mattare to tend to — insted of mine his impertnance — vi he no mine his one affaire — ha! de membare de counsille dey tak him no notise — he is serve jus as every von vill, dat meddle in vat is his no bisnese; de hole doe not smell af so mush as he sa — beside *Sair*, it be von grand affaire fer me . . . tres bon — so soone as do vendre be git ver varm, mi shop be so croud full of customare, vat vant de rappee.² and de moccab an de vater de cologne, by gar, mi poket be ful of de papier of de corporation; ver good — von sa *Peter*! curse dat hole, it make me tak so mush rappee — I smile and shrug mi sholdare, and he git de snuff — An oder sa, curse de mare — an I sa oh fi! — an he giv me too dollare for de *Cologne* — den you see how I koxe im, til he git cole, an tella im vat I hare de doctare sa von da, dat it mak no bodie sik, it be so 'olesome — an de too doctare, so laf at pauvre petite *G.* dat de vater run done dare too nose — *Bimebi* he go away ver vell plese at vat I telle im — Beside, *Sair*, dare is no monee to vaste out on sutch petite trifle — dare is no tax in de clarke hand; an von of de consille, I ear im sa, dey vont agrea to tax de people — I sa so much de bettare, all but von lettle gentlehome — I no remembare his name — vat you call de man ho vatch de mouton? Aha! dat is he, he sa every ting mus be tax — all but de barbare — foutre! vat he no bout it — ver pitty ting dat, in dis lan de libertae — all tax but de barbare! — By gar, I tell im, he vill be not elect in de consille de nex yare. Be si kine, *Sair*, to rite to de *Mare*, dat hole do no bodie no harme — it is vash ver clene alway ven it rain, an it do not stinke so verbad. Je suis — *Monsieur Printair*, *Peter*. N.B. Van you pas by de hole, *Sair*, into my leetle shop, I vill mak you von presente of snuff an box, an sharge you no ting de firs time.'

Metropolitan (Georgetown), July 1, 1820, LC.

¹ Weems had been in Georgetown at about this date, as is shown by letters not here included, and this article is so like his style in writing broken French (see *Life of Marion*, and

Duelling), that I impute it to him. I have been unable to find the article, signed G., which called it out. See also article of Aug. 10, 1820.

² A brand of snuff.

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

*L. & F. Vol. 39.**ALEXAND^a July 9. [1820.]*

Dr. SIR . . . Came on to place of date — arriv^d almost melted with heat. People all commemorating “the Day” . . .

I begg^d you to meet me with 50 Doll^{rs}. at Washington. Owing to my not call^g [*for*] any monies from you, my family tho frugal is, at times, but indifferently supplied.

I am glad that a copy with fewer Genealogical tables, & more ad Captandum Maps is to meet me shortly. Many of our Democrats, scanning the Genealogies, can’t help cursing the Dukes of Suabia, Bavaria &c. &c. I doubt not but you will greatly improve this work.

*L. & F. Vol. 39.**ALEXAND^a July 11 [18]20.*

Dr. SIR I wrote to you for 50\$, thro one of the District banks. I have got W^m. Penn ready for Press. It is in my opinion very much ad captand. of Juvenile fancies. And when we take into view his extraordinarily moralizing Life we sh^d wish to see it made a School book. All Philosophers, you know, are constantly apothosizing W^m. Penn, & praying as devoutly as they are able, that the whole world were Friends. As you print my other books, I think you had better print this also. In Pennsylvania the Sale will, no doubt, be universal. And it will be considerable in all the States. If you do not want it, I wish you w^d let it be printed for *myself* & exchang^d for books that may be sent when you send Washington, Franklin, & Marion. I engage not to lose my time in sell^g a solitary book of it, but conscienciously deposit it with the others in the little stores we talk^d of. . . .

I mention this, because I find that the Merch^{ts} are not willing to take books on commission for less than 15 to 20 pr cent. They say that they are tired of advancing money every six months on 10 pr cent commission for books which they are obliged to sell & lay out of their money one or two years. Now to give them 20 pr cent & get of you, only 33, seems a bad business. But if I got 40 to 50 it might do. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 39.

GEORGETOWN July 13, 1820

Dr. SIR. . . . An unpleasant accident takes me off the track to day, but in the morning I fall to it again & I hope we shall do something here. I then return to Virg^a. & dash for Lynchburg, Staunton &c &c. It appears as tho' I shou^d never get into a right fix as to a light sulky & nimble horse. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 39.

WASHINGTON, July 15, 1820.

Dr. SIR: . . . I wish that you & Henry will let my Son Jesse be y^r Collector in Virg^a at least. You have had proof that none can be more rapid in his movements & none more honest to remit. I mention this wish, because he is rather indigent & will have use for a few hundred Doll^s. to put up a small cottage on a little piece of land in this neighbourhood.

As to poor Elijah, I know not how it stands between you & him. I w^d God I cou^d esteem him a good deal, for the pleasure's sake of the thing. If you cou^d send him, on Vesey, to some other state, I think you might do it with safety — there being no money to be received in hand. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 39.

WASHINGTON July 18, 1820.

DEAR SIR — . . . My son has no talent at getting sub^s. But he is young, honest — (being a METHODIST) and withal immensely active & virtuously ambitious — so that I think he will keep up the high claim to Praise which you once bestow^d on him. I therefore wish that you w^d let him collect, after me. He shall do it for you cheaper than any other person will do it. There is a world of chaff among the good wheat in this self same Atlas. For *another* Edition (for with proper management this thing like Aaron's rod may swallow up Lucas & Melish & all others) I say in *another edition* the wheat may be separated from the chaff and a banquet be spread fit for the Muses &c. to dine on. However there is time enough for that. In the interim I w^d God that

you & y^r. most Noble son Henry w^d find it somewhere in the auricles or ventricles of y^r Hearts to give me an active little horse for the business. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 39.

WASHINGTON July 20, [18]20.

Dr. SIR . . . I send you the Nat. Intelligen^r of this morning. It contains an Elegant Critique by the great W^m. H. Crawford.¹ This will do you more good than any of the Recommendations inserted in your prospectus. Mr. Crawford is a valuable friend of mine — and has volunteer^d to point out some important improvements in y^r work. I think you w^d do well to write him a letter of acknowledgment for his attention to me in this thing. I feel a wish & tis y^r interest that I come to Annapolis & Balt^o. By a former *letter patent* you gave me a Grant of M^d & Virg^a. I have therefore a claim prior to all others. As to the *Collector* after me, I shall count on y^r. nominating my Son to that honor. If you & Henry cou'd find it somewhere in y^r hearts to give me a very light sulky — plain & cheap as you please & a light, active horse — *well* —

L. & F. Vol. 39.

WASHINGTON July 21, 1820

Dr. SIR, . . . Tomorrow morning I go to a large Party in the Country, where it is thought I may do something. Thence I shall proceed 60 miles [*to*] Charlotte hall Academy² where is to be an Examination on Monday. You will not hear from me for nearly a week. . . .

If you will cast y^r eye on the National Intelligencer of yesterday (the 20th) you will see an Elegant letter of the Secretary of State on y^r. Atlas. Will you notice it to the Honorable Writer of it?

¹ A recommendation of Carey's edition of *Le Sage's Historical Atlas* by Lavoisne. For this, with advertisement in full, see *Bibliography*, title 254, note 3.

² *Ad.* 'Charlotte-Hall School. Wanted im-

mediately, an assistant in the classical department. . . . Cool Springs, May 20th, St. Mary's County, Maryland. . . . ' *Times & District of Columbia Daily Advertiser*, May 28, 1802, HU.

L. & F. Vol. 39.

WASHINGTON July 22, [18]20.

DR. SIR . . . Henry said that if I w^d “*exert myself in Bal^o. I might get 40 sub^s there*” Thank God I have gotten near 60 in this place which is not half as large. But my satisfaction is abridg^d by y^r silence on the score of two orders lately sent to you — also by your knocking off at a dash what might be a handsome source of revenue to my little Domestic Economy. I mean “ORDERS FOR BOOKS,” which constitutes a part of our agreement. It is not even *dreamt* by me, to turn aside from the strong flood tide of successful subscriptioneering to beg an order for books that may never be paid. But when a Mammoth a Leviathan of Honor & fortune, out of his *special love* for me gives me an order for 50 or 100 Dolls worth of Books — and this too in perfect harmony with my Grand subⁿ. business, in Heaven’s name why may it not be accepted? . . .

L. & F. Vol. 39.

WASH. July 22, — [18]20

DEAR SIR Scarcely was the Boy out of sight with my letter to post office, before Doct^r James Ewell came in with a request that I w^d write to you on a piece of business solely his own — for which he volunteers to exonerate you the postage.

Imprimis, ’twas the Doct^r. who originated the idea of my running down to Charlotte Hall (Academy) to meet a Rendez vous of Fathers & Mothers and the Dear knows who, all coming together to the “EXHIBITION” — Secundo — ’tis the same Doct^r. (Ewell) who thinks that from the number of his friends & the weight of his Influence in that Country, he shall, without doubt, enable me to get ten Sub^s at least for the Atlas & perhaps, some for Vesey Jun^r. — Now in return for all this the Doct^r. begs you will be so good as to use your influence with Mr. Potter¹ (who has not written one line to him) to send him on instantly 25 copies of the Medical Companion, for which he will, as he most solemnly promises, send him on the money in 20 to 30 days. He assures me, that he has numbers of his Medicine Chests *engaged* —

¹ Probably ‘Potter, S[heldon]. & Co. booksellers & stationers, 85 Chesnut’ *Philadelphia Directory*, 1823, LC.

(*in fact I see about 20.*) but for lack of the Medical Companions he cannot send them to the Sub^s. — Mr. P. will, the Doct^r prays, send them by the most speedy conveyance — steamboat to Balt^o. The Doct^r. has certainly for some time past been getting into a better way than formerly.

[To M. CAREY & SON]

L. & F. Vol. 39.

WASHINGTON yet Aug. 30. 1820

Dr. GENTLEMEN:— . . . You promis^d to send poor Mr^s. Weems 50\$ *first of every month* by Mr. Brundige. Mr. B. says that if you will have it convey^d to his son W^m Brundige in Balt^o.¹ he will pay Mr^s. W. immediately. I intreat you to attend to this at once, as she very much wants some money to go into the Country by the 10th. Instant.

L. & F. Vol. 39.

WASHINGTON yet Aug. 2^d 1820.

DEAR SIRs — . . . I have done a great deal more here than I had any idea of — thank God for it — Suspect that the game is almost all started. Why the plague will you not tell me whether I shall come on to Balt^o? I tell you that I am miserably ill provided with an active horse. And really the tide is so low with me now that I cannot command one. And yet I abhor the idea of asking you for a horse. There is something Dysenteric in the Atmosphere which, in spite of my abstemious living, has given me a little jog — en passant — This, together with the prejudice *against* subscrib^g compell^g me to long speeches for Lavoisne, throws me back a good deal.

L. & F.

Aug. 5, 1820, Carey wrote to Weems, giving consent 'to purchase a horse & . . . equip yourself for your Va. trip.'

¹ 'Brundige, William, tobacconist, 12 Light st whf, dw Hanover, E side N of Lee' *Baltimore Directory*, 1822, LC.

1820]

LETTERS

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 39.

WASHINGTON Aug. 5 [18]20

Dr. SIR — . . . My little complaint (dysenteri) mention^d in my last, kept me hors du combat, near 2 days. but thank God I have got 20 sub^s. this week.

I set off in the morning, 6 o'clock, to meet the *Court* at Leonard town — Tis a Tobacco country, & Tobacco is the grand staple now. Every Sub^r. I sent you from Charlotte Hall & the counties contiguous — all Tobacco Planters & all rich as cream. Am somewhat mortified that after giving me *Fredericktown* & Hagers you have taken them away again. However, I trust all is right — and count that you will let Jesse be yr Agent for Mary^d. & Virgin^a. You have, I believe, had proof that none can be more *active & honest*.¹ He has bought a little tract of land and is immensely anxious to pay for it in time, so that I am confident he will do — *I really fear* — too much in his zeal to serve you, me & himself. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 39.

Aug. 5, [18]20

DEAR SIR — . . . Doct^r Ewell, who has *endeavor*^d to aid me in gett^g some sub^s. for Lavoisne, and who pays the postage of this, begs you w^d request Mr. Potter to stop the sale of his Medical Companion till he can take some very prompt measures to redeem them. This MOMENT we start for Court at Leonardtown 60 miles distant — Shall return in 6 or 7 days, when Mr. Potter will hear, and *satisfactorily* from Doct^r Ewell. Please convey this to that Gentleman . . .

The Doct begs me to add that as you promis^d to adjust this matter with Mr. Potter he confidently counts on y^r friendly attention to this.

[*M. L. W.*?²]

‘MONSIEUR EDITOR. — Je sui francas, von Frenchmen. I did come into dis contree pour liberte of tranquilite — for pauvre France, malhereusement, dere is de grand confusion la — vell sair, I arrive

¹ See Carey's note of Sept. 9, 1820.

² For the reasons for attributing this effusion to Weems, see note to July 1, 1820.

en Nouvelle York — oh, it is bootiful cite, belle ville, I have de lodge-
ment en rue Broadway — a joli rue — fine street — sair, je suis malade,
I am ver sick, mais I have not de fièvre jaune, de yellow fever. I did
go to sleep very well — En de matin, in de morning vot you sall call,
just at de peep of de day, I am rouse vis de grand tapage — great
noise — I ouvre a fenetree, ope de vindow, and I did say vat you vant
eh? Begar, it was two petit negres — de little black devil vat sweep
de shimmies — de say, sair, ve vill sweep de shimmie. Allez vous en,
diable, go away, vat you makee de noise, eh? for vy you derange my
rest? Sair, de negre shake de head and go away, singing very loud
Sweep, Sweep. I go to my bed, encore I am fatigue. By and by, directly,
ven I shall go to sleep gain, I hear more confusion — *Meelk, Meelk —*
Onw — Iye. Vat is dat. I discover it is de lait — de milk vat you drink
in de caffè — diable m'emporte, for vy you no sell de milk vidout make
de grand noise? Ver soon I encore von autre close [*sic*] *Klam, de Rock-*
away Klam. Vat is *Clam*? I get out of my bed encore avec de mal de
tete, vid a grand pain in my head. Sir, I cannot live in dis dam contree
— I walk en Broadway apres dinnee — dere is von little coquin, he crie
Rosk, Te Rosk. Ven it is night, I hear *Ot Korn, Ot Korn*. Vat de diable
is *Ot Korn*? I ask de negres vat sell de article. I discover, par exemple,
it is vat we give to de couchons — de hogs en my countree. Den dare is
de cart — de bells — de gig — de bake pare. Sair, you ave de belle
ville — de handsome ladi — de dandy jentimen — mai you make a to
much noise pour moi — you vill make me go to de ospital, vat you shall
call Babelon — dere is no noise dere — and, sair, if I cannot sleep in
tranquillite, begar I vill go back to France encore, Monsieur Editor, votre
tres humble serveteur

LA CARMAGNOLE.'

Metropolitan (Georgetown), Aug. 10, 1820, LC.

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 39.

GEORGETOWN Aug. 15, 1820

Dr. SIR, Oh Murder! — Just return^d from Leonardtown Court —
made some gallant speeches, but almost to no purpose at all — The
People all mad as fire for a very recent imposition in the case of Nicolson's¹
Encyclopedia. A book that was to teach the Sub^s everything — and
yet, when open^d, taught hardly anything. Fluxions Logarithms, Conic

¹ Probably the John Nicholson referred to in *ProcAAS*, New Series, Vol. XXXII, 1922,
p. 197.

Sections, &c.&c.&c. for the Tobacco planters & Sow Gelders of the Country. . . .

This Atlass has been greatly favor^d. It may be infinitely more so. The principles on which it is constructed are admirable. But the descent in the scale of Genealogical Minutiae and uninteresting Battles &c &c is certainly *very objectionable*. Oh Heavens! wou'd you but employ several Minds of sterling Genius to bring together, in the Kaleidoscopic way their several offerings to this great work, there's no telling how far it might extend. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 39.

WASHINGTON Aug. 17, 1820.

DEAR SIR — . . . Please solve me on the follow^g. The Rev^d. Mr. And^w. T. M'Cormick ¹ (of Ireland) a poor but pious Clergyman of this place — of good report & Influential in his Congregation, went about with me *two days*, to the neglect of his own business, and to the obtaining 23 Sub^s. many of whom, 'tis possible, I might not have *found out* without his aid. For this good service, knowing y^r disposition, I promis^d him a copy of the work. This is the only case where I have thought adviseable so to do. No doubt I might often find it to y^r interest to enlist a Popular Preacher in the cause; however you will give advice of y^r wishes on that head, taking with you that I w^d not present a copy for less than 20 to 30 signatures. Except indeed where the signatures were obtain^d without any *co operation of mine* & then one for 9 or 10. For the very active part taken in my favor by the Honorable W^m. H. Crawford I believe I signified to him that y^r grateful Resentments [*sic*] of the same w^d be manifested in presenting him a copy. But whether he so understands it or not, I think you will find it to y^r interest to present him a copy. - It may serve as sowing one seed to *reap many*. He is ardent in his friendships; & you know he has the strength of an *Ajax* . . .

In two hours I start for a GREAT CAMP MEETING. 30 miles distant, shall try to make a speech & do something. The Richest County in M^d.

¹ *Ad.* 'Washington School. Rev. Andrew M'Cormick, Mr. John Smith to Miss Catherine T. M'Cormick, successor to the Rev. George Way, both of the town of Alexandria.' *National Ralph . . .* *Washington Gazette* (D. C.), Jan. 4, *Intelligencer* (Washington, D. C.), June 2, 1809, 1797, LC. — 'Married — By the Rev. A. T. LC.

will convene its Court in 16 days, i.e. Prince Georges at Mar[l]boro; Tobacco Planters rich as CREAM within striking Distance for Jesse to deliver. I have thoughts of pushing thither — thence to large Counties in Virg^a.

L. & F. Vol. 39.

DUMFRIES Aug. 23, 1820

Dr. SIR — On getting to the Camp Meeting, as I promis^d in my last, from Washington, I found everything & everybody in such a Religious Uproar that nothing cou'd be done. This was Saturday. I had then to wait patiently till monday morning when I dash^d to FAIRFAX COURT 7 miles distant where I obtain^d as follows — . . .

As to Lesage — like all other new works it is very far from being what it may & ought to be. As it is a very lovely hand maid to science highly important, & captivating too, as History, Geography &c &c it will recieve very extensive patronage & find its way into numberless families Surely then it ought to carry with it all the valuable instruction possible You have given it a very excellent dash at the Established Hierarchy in Ireland, stating the enormous exactions of the Bishops chiefly from the poor Irish Catholics &c. Why have you not given a similar statistic of the English Prelates, the 10 & 15000£ sterling followers of the Humble Jesus of Nazareth? Corresponding as you do with London & Paris, & surrounded with all the Learning & Learned men of Amer. what floods of Light may you not pour upon this last Republic, thro' the Medium of this work so well calculated to sell. I am very certain that a great deal of the fine wire drawn Genealogies in this Atlas may, with infinite satisfaction to our simple Republican Readers, be exchanged for that immense mass of better matter that you can easily give them. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 39.

DUMFRIES. Aug. 25 — [18]20

Dr SIR — . . . I wish you w^d instantly send me 12 of the yellow paper Bibles & 60 Copies Assorted of the last & Best editions of Washington, Franklin (Hagerstown edit.) & Marion — to Dumfries, via Alexand^a. care of Henry Slade. As I have come down cheerfully from 100\$ pr

month to half that sum, I know you will not fail to send on via Mr. Brundige, — Money was counted on from Mr. Hewitt¹ for the law books, but I was much disappointed in that little affair. But more anon. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 39.

Aug. 31 [1820.]

. . . You have a number of Printers in arrears to you — wou'd it not be well to get one of them to strike off 1000 copies of Franklin according to the Hagerstown copy? Tanner has, from me, one of the best Likenesses of that Great Man I have ever seen. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 39.

ALEXAND^a. Sep. 12, 1820.

Dr. SIR. . . . As to Marion I am happy to tell you that the Character of that Book is rising wonderfully & also that of Doct^r Franklin, the Glorious Patriot & Economist of our Country. It was our Agreement that I sh^d have plenty of these Great Moralists to place at my risk in well chosen hands. It is our mutual & great interest to attend to this part of the business.

Of Wash. Frank. Marion & the Looking Glasses with the 5\$ Bible we might, I think, very easily sell 10 to 12.000 Doll^s p^r annum. I have some noble anecdotes for Marion. . . .

[FROM M. CAREY & SON]

L. & F.

Sep. 13, 1820

. . . The whole state of Maryland is now open to you. . . .

[TO HENRY C. CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 39.

ALEXAND^a Sep. 14. [1820.]

Dr. SIR. I am happy to tell you that the Floottide in favor of Le Sage has not yet experienc^d any ebb. Last week in the Rich Tobacco

¹ Perhaps one of the following: 'Letters remaining in the Post-office at Petersburg, 1st June, 1795. . . . Capt. John Hewett . . . J. Grammer.' *Virginia Gazette & Petersburg Intelligencer*, June 12, 1795, HU. — 'A List of Letters remaining in the post office, Alexandria, Jan. 1, 1803 . . . Rich'd Hewitt . . . ' *Alexandria Expositor*, Jan. 9, 1804, HU.

Country of N. Marlboro I obtain'd (1 Vesey included) to amount of 800 Doll^s. — all rich as cream — and within striking distance of Washington. In the last 3 days I have gotten 16 Sub^s in this place, an amount beyond what I obtain^d here at the first Reaping. This shews the value of getting such Patrons as W^m. H. Crawford Esq^r & making a noise in the Papers. Elijah said that you w^d be in Washington today or tomorrow. The uncertainty of y^r being there today and the certainty of doing something here, has kept me from coming up. But I will be with you tomorrow (Friday) perhaps in the afternoon. I am happy you came to see my family & that they made some *little* Demonstration of the high regards which I have ever entertained for yourself & the Family at the Corner of Chestnut & 4th.

[FROM M. CAREY & SON]

L. & F.

Sept. 19, 1820.

We hope & trust that your son is regular & steady . . . He was formerly we believe very wild.

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 39.

ANNAPOLIS Sep. 20. 1820

DEAR SIR. . . . I am now at Annapolis where I arrived day before yesterday; but setting aside making *some good preparations*, have done nothing owing to a slight *Bilious attack* brought on by excessive fatigue in this most oppressive Dog Day weather for 5 weeks past. But, thank God, for giving me habitual temperance & cheerfulness, thro' which I am now pretty nearly in statu quo again — & hope tomorrow to recommence my labours with the usual good effect.

I have all my life long been *penny wise & pound foolish*. If a light easy gig which w^d cost but 80 Dolls. & an active horse, [*were bought?*] so that I might not lose a moment of time but dash off at the gait of a Greyhound from one Town, Courthouse, Regimental Muster, &c &c to another, it w^d prove a gain of thousands of Doll^s. But yet, with this important truth staring & *grinning* me in the face, I cannot act up to it. The Expenses of my family *numerous in itself*, and surrounded by *indigent Relatives*, and a Daughter or two lately married, make such an entire sweep of my little monthly allowance (50 Dolls) that I am not

able to travel with that *speed* or to make that genteel appearance which the Important Interests you have now confided to me require —

[FROM M. CAREY & SON]

L. & F.

PHIL. Oct. 20, 1820.

Yours of the 20^h has been duly rec'd.

We are really astonished that you have tiezed us on the subject of a horse so long. You have now in y^r possession 3 horses & a carriage purchased by our Money & never yet accounted for & surely you ought to be able to purchase a full Blooded horse with the proceeds of them. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 39.

ANNAPOLIS [*n.d. received Sept. 29 — 1820.*]

DEAR SIR — Knowing you w^d like to hear of me I write this — I am exceedingly *debilitated* — too much so, at this season of the year, to make any effectual exertions — without eminent hazard. Shou'd not have been sick at all had I but laid by & *taken medicine in time*. The Physician advises for your interest & mine that I give a few days to Rest & perfect recovery — I had hints enough, but my anxiety to make you handsome returns made me imprudent. Hope not to be sick soon again. I had strength to address but 5 persons. . . .

This minute set off for Virg^a. — shall visit the large towns *instantly* — God willing.

L. & F. Vol. 39.

ALEXAND^a. Oct. 6, 1820

DEAR SIR — I am at place of date where I arrived two days ago — found Mrs. W^s. and all my family at our daughter's (M^{rs}. H. Slade's) dangerously ill of the prevailing Epidemic. Being, myself, quite feeble I rested a couple of days but am determin^d to wait no longer. So leaving them in the hands of a kind Providence & the Physician, I shall set off immediately after dinner for Leesburg. . . .

As to Jesse's Qualifications, mention^d some time ago in y^{rs}. you remember how highly you commended him for his performances in Pennsylv^a & New Jersey in delivering Books to sub^s.? I am confident that the U. States do not possess a young man of more Industry & In-

tegrity. You have always borne me harmless of counterfeit notes — & I count that you will do the same by him. But as he is to deliver nearly all the Books in large towns where he may find Gentlemen aplenty to discriminate for him, I hope there will be but little danger, especially if you will but tell him what Banks he is to take. . . .

As to Dr. Franklin. We must assuredly print it again. That Book may do, [*more*] by promoting “THE SAVING VIRTUES,” to prolong the Independence of this Country, than all the Maps in the World. I am shortening it & altering it prodigiously for the better.¹ The truth is, since you seem so backward to print these Books of mine if you will recommend some Printer who will print them for me, at a profit that will enable me to give a Commanding Commission to Trust Worthy Agents you will do me a great kindness — Be assured that not a moment of time will be lost to the Grand Concern Le Sage & Vesey & Bibles — . . .

Did you send to Mr. Weems?

L. & F.

FREDKTOWN Oct. 19 — [18]20

DEAR SIR, . . . I dare say you have been at a loss about me. I had scarcely got over that *bilious* touch brought on me by my own Excessive toil in the *Dog days* before some vile tainted oysters (which I took for quicker gaining of strength) threw me into a cholera morbus. But, thank God, I am again out on a Cruise and as you see with some success. Had I known that Mr. Fay meant to cruise on this ground I sh^d not have come on it. What prizes he made I know not. I told the Bar of this place that if they w^d give me six good Signatures, I w^d make a small discount of 5 pr cent. Please tell me whether in any case I may use that argument.

My nephew Elijah did not treat me so honorably in Georgetown as he ought to have done. However, recollecting that you w^d soon have Le Sage at market, and that my two attacks had thrown me hors de combat for near 4 weeks (*for I did not get here till day before yesterday*) I thought it adviseable to give Elijah a paper & specimen for Le Sage. I told him

¹ Weems left out Franklin's *Autobiography* and lengthened his own text in the 1820 edition (*Bibliography*, title 134).

POSITIVELY that I did not know what you w^d give him for taking GOOD SIGNATURES but that He well knew that you w^d give him what was liberal for *taking* good Sub^s. and that JESSE *was to deliver and remit to you*. To prevent any kind of fraud on the part of Elijah, — for Henry told me that Elijah propos^d to buy the books — and now after getting papers & a specimen from me, he may get Mr. De Silver ¹ or some other friend to get the books & send to him & thus defraud me — I say to prevent such injustice, I sh^d be glad you w^d ORDER HIM to remit you every week or fortnight, his list of sub^s. I am well pleas^d to undertake the Royal Quarto. If I could take 6 or 8 always with me, in order to leave *one* every 10 or 12 miles with Gentlemen of Wealth and High Standing to get such GOOD NAMES as I *cannot possibly see*, and at any rate to pay me in 6 months, I think it w^d be a great thing. Tomorrow I leave this for Hagerstown, Winchester &c, &c. Did you send the money to Mr. Brundige for Mr^s. W? What do you think of my callg on Congress, the Maryland Legislature at Annapolis, that of Virg^a. & N. Carolina this Christmass &c. &c. Oh that I had but a swift strong horse. I am now, thank God, getting better again. It was all owing to my over eagerness & carrying too much sail on my Constitution in a sickly season & climate — hope God will strengthen me to avoid it hereafter.

[M. CAREY & SON TO JESSE WEEMS]

L. & F.

Oct. 21, 1820.

. . . Where is your father? We have not heard from him for a long time. . . .

[FROM M. CAREY & SON]

L. & F.

PHIL. Oct. 25, 1820.

. . . We are now printing a very handsome Edition of Marion which will be finished in about 3 or 4 Weeks & we shall then, if you think proper put Franklin to press. Try to curtail it.² It is too extravagant large for a Dollar. We do not believe we Made a Dollar by the first Edition.

¹ R. Desilver published Mease's *Picture of Philadelphia* in 1831, LC. See also *Addenda*.

² The text was neither changed nor abbreviated thereafter, so far as I have seen.

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 39.

HAGERSTOWN, Octob. 26 — [18]20

DEAR SIR. . . . The above [\$355.] was obtain^d for you in 7 days. Thank God for this — and still — [I] strive for more, But indeed I was hardly ever so illy qualified to serve you as now. The Influenza raging par tout has fix^d. all its morbidities of chills, fevers, sore throat & Lungs on me also. Was hous^d all day yesterday. Stiff as a founder^d horse I am just setting out for Virg^a. Shepherds town, Martinsburg, Winchester &c. . . .

Please take notice that a grand Cession of Court will take place here on the 3^d Monday in Nov. ergo tis all important to get the things & maps here SOON AS POSSIBLE.

de novo were it well to ship 3 Roy. Quarto to Dumf. for specimens.

L. & F. Vol. 39.

WINCHESTER, NOV. 10. 1820

DEAR SIR: . . . Owing to turning out too soon, I call^d back the Influenza which kept me chamber^d. almost a week longer.

I am now, thank God, pretty nearly as I was before my most imprudent eagerness threw me into my late illness. . . .

I am coming on thro' Leesburg, to Dumfries & Balt^o. & ANNAPOLIS & Congress. Is that well or ill devis^d?

L. & F. Vol. 39.

DUMFRIES, NOV. 13 — 1820

DEAR SIR. . . . This moment (almost *literally*) got back to this place after 8 weeks absence — and am getting everything ready for a start in the morning for Balt^o. via Montgomery Court house. God grant me success! for yr sake & mine. I am now, thank God for it, strong enough to ride all day in the cold without the use of a great coat. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 39.

GEORGETOWN, NOV. 14 — [18]20

DEAR SIR — . . . I agree with you to “try Congress.” But were you in my place w^d you like that Elijah or any other person shou^d *run against me*? I fear I shall have some hard horses to deal with, both in Balt^o. &

Congress. If you think I ought not to have any opposition here, please give orders very plainly at once. I am told by his Brother that Elijah has just bought a farm & is about to move to the Country (Elkridge) in a few weeks. You mention an excellent horse — I w^d God I had an active, good spirited horse, the one I now have w^d ruin the philosophy of a Socrates. Elijah agreed with me *only to get sub^s*. for you — (which I offer^d him merely because sickness had stopped me in your business) but now I am told he wants to have the distribution of the books. Tis pity that the past has not convinc^d him that “*Honesty is the best policy*.” I have one admirable chap. to add to Marion.¹ Write to me to Balt^o.

L. & F. Vol. 39.

BALT^o. Nov. 23 — [18]20.

DEAR SIR. I reach^d this place two days ago. My first day was spent in waiting on Gen^l Pinkney, Gen^l. Harper,² The Attorney Gen^l. W^m. Wirt³ and Mess^{rs}. Damphoux & Tessier⁴ of the large Balt^o. Seminary, for their recommendations of Le Sage. The 2^d day was *misspent* in calling on the Great Lawyers for patronage of Vesey — After some time lost I found that several *had subscrib^d* — to M^r. Coale. Owing to a press of Court business, two of the Gen^{ls} the “Domimi Giegis”[?] could give me nothing better than promises. In the Federal Gazette & Balt^o Daily Advertiser of to day (the 23) you will see something to please you.⁴ Tis now $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3, the Nabobs will be done with their nuts & apples by 4, when I shall make some little trial on a few of them. . . .

¹ Never added.

² Robert Goodloe Harper, of Virginia, 1765–1825, a representative in the legislature of South Carolina, and in Congress, 1793–1801; removed to Baltimore and became a celebrated law practitioner; 1812, Colonel in the U. S. Army, and later Major-General; U. S. Senate, 1815–1816. See *Twentieth Century Dictionary of Notable Americans*. — Weems admired Harper so greatly that in one of his tracts he gave him an elaborate puff.

³ Born in Maryland, 1772; district-attorney, Virginia, 1816–1817; attorney-general of the United States, 1817–1829; died 1834.

See *Twentieth Century Biographical Dictionary of Notable Americans*. See also Burton's *History of Norfolk, Va.*, p. 6 [LC.], and *Chronicles of Georgetown*, by Richard P. Jackson, Washington, 1878, p. 35, LC.; also note following.

⁴ Letter of recommendation of Le Sage's *Atlas*, signed 'Wm. Wirt' and addressed to The Rev. Mr. Weems, who printed below an 'interesting testimony of approbation, from the Presidents of St. Mary's College, Mess. Damphoux and Tessier.' *Federal Gazette & Baltimore Daily Advertiser*, Nov. 23, 1820, M^DHS. See succeeding page.

I promise myself but little here. Gentlemen of fortune & education on whom I have waited, seem dispos'd to believe Le Sage to be every thing that the Eloquent Mr Wirt has pronounced it: and they also lavish their comp^{ts}. on my address and all that, but still they hold back — some telling me that they have so often been impos'd on — others, that they shall get the book presently at auction for half price — all shrug up their shoulders with fright of the “TIMES” — our acquaintance Mr. Lucas, who, (with others) seems to hate my presence here, has pick'd up a number of Sub^s. & from the noise that I am making will probably pick up a good many more. I shall get one or two more of the Popular Gazettes to place the work before the public so as to give all possible aid to my unwearied efforts to [*push?*] the Enterprise. . . .

[M. L. W.]

‘TO THE EDITOR.

Sir. I beg through the medium of your very patriotic paper, to invite the patronage of the citizens to an extraordinary new publication, admirably calculated at once to their own amusement, and the education of their children. It was, you know, Sir, a famous saying of Alexander the Great, that “*he owed more to Aristotle his Preceptor, than to King Phillip, his father.*” “*Phillip,*” he said “*had given him only natural life: but Aristotle had given him immortal life!*” meaning EDUCATION — which had raised his mind from the death of ignorance, to the true life of WISDOM and PLEASURE. Certain it is, there is no way wherein a parent can so substantially manifest his love for his son, as by giving him a *good education*.

It is this that confers dignity on character, and imparts usefulness to life, it is this that enables us to be cheerful in solitude, or charm in conversation; and should fortune frown, or friends prove false, education can raise a young man from obscurity, and place him among the great ones of the earth. O! what wonders has it not achieved here in America? See our Washington and Franklin, our Rittenhouse and Pendleton! See our Wirt and Crawford, our Pinkney and Harper! These all, at their outset, were but poor boys and yet, on the wings of early education to what riches and rank have they not soared, to what extensive usefulness and imperishable glory? Yes, and so omnipotent is education, that with its divine aid even the FEEBLER SEX can easily rise above all their difficulties, and gain the highest seats of public beneficence and private satisfaction. Witness, Miss Anne Smith Patapsco —

Mrs. Jane Taylor, Petersburg — Mrs. Anne Hackley, Richmond — and many others equally famed: some of them indigent widows; some of them delicate maidens, without fortune and without friends; and yet, by education, taking charge of grand Female Academies: enlightning and polishing thousands of the fairest daughters of the republic, and in return covering themselves with wealth and honor! All these individual and national blessings are derived from education! — And now, next to Theology, what is the ground work of education, but HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, AND CHRONOLOGY, or a thorough knowledge of this fair creation; the EARTH, and of the various branches of the human family that inhabit it? And where can we find all this most pleasing and useful knowledge, so extensively collected to our hands, and so perspicuously digested, as in this admirable literary Panorama, “LE SAGE’S HISTORICAL ATLAS?” That the reader may better learn to appreciate this masterpiece of modern invention, he is, respectfully invited to the pleasure of perusing the following letter. It is from a gentleman, who is himself a splendid evidence of the ennobling effects of early education.’

[*Unsigned.*]

Followed by a letter of recommendation to Weems signed ‘Wm. Wirt’, dated Nov. 22, 1820.

Federal Gazette & Daily Advertiser (Baltimore), Nov. 23, 1820, MDHS.

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 39.

BALT^o. Nov. 24 — [18]20.

DEAR SIR, . . . I sh^d have made a bold push to meet you agreeably to y^r invitation — I mean at Fred^ktown last friday, but was prevented by the excessive dullness of my horse that you bought 3 or 4 years ago in Philad^a for me. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 39.

BALT^o. Nov. 27, 1820

DEAR SIR. . . . I am much pleas^d with the last Circular. I hope it will do great good. If I live to finish at Annapolis & Congress, & the Richmond Legislature, and had but an active horse to dash thro’ the wealthy Counties & villages of the Interior, I doubt not but a noble accession will be made to the Subⁿ list. As to *Franklin*, I have not heard twice from you: but will soon have the copy ready for you — that

being my chief employment at nights. I wish you wd send me a "PICTURE OF PHILADELPHIA" ¹ for my own use in draw^g up Franklin & Penn.

And if there be in y^r possession anything new & valuable concerning Franklin, such as the Book lately printed In England, I sh^d like to see it — We may, perhaps in the course of one or two editions more, get that most Exemplary Great Man into a better travelling case than he has yet been. When we think of what we have done with his illustrious Com-
pat[riot]. Washington we must keep up our hopes. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 39.

BALT^o. Nov. 29 — [18]20

DEAR SIR — . . . Thank God, we are looking up here — especially when it is recollected that M^r. Fay went thro' town in the fine subscriptioneering season of summer — that the work was advertis^d at length in stand^g type — that M^r Lucas has ever since, at the Grand Literary Rendez vous, had a paper & specimen — and that my exertions are making now at the fag end of all, and under the disheartening chills of impending Winter. However I trust I shall be enabled to come up to Henry's propos^d amount here — 40 or 50 [*subscribers?*].

As to the horse (an *excellent one*) I am beyond measure delighted to hear of him — for I really [*felt?*] sick at thought of turning out on the road with such a *dull animal* as I now have. I am now getting 4 or 5 sub^s. pr day. I dont like to leave this — but it makes my heart leap for joy to think of seeing, tho' but for half an hour, the Smilings & Sparklings of y^r Beloved Family Group. please think of it — and if you advise I will jump into the steam boat & dash up. You will exceedingly oblige me, in y^r next, to tell me where M^r. Pomeroy may be written to — so as to reach him without fail —

I shall instantly run down to Captn Trippe.

I rejoice to hear of Davies's Sermons for me. That will go wonderfully — especially if, on maturing y^r Grand plan of the Atlas hinted by Henry, I can dash on to the South.

¹ By James Mease, M.D., Philadelphia, B. & T. Kite, 1811, LC.

*L. & F. Vol. 39.*BALT^o. Nov. 30 — [18]20

DEAR SIR — . . . As to coming up, as you propos^d, to ride back that Excellent horse, I need not, perhaps, be so oppos^d to it on the score of *losing* thereby, especially if I were to jump into the steamboat Sunday night & get to Philad^a. On my way back I might get some sub^a. &, still better, might put papers into hands that w^d do you service. And besides, as Monday afternoon w^d suffice for our “*Palaver*” or grand talk about future operations &c I cou^d set out again Tuesday morning. Please write to me immediately.

I am thinking that it wd be well, for the purpose of suspending Subscription lists at *Banks*, Coffee houses, Reading Rooms &c &c, to strike off a half sheet with Crawford’s & the Attorney Gen^ls Letters on a type LARGE & fascinating with the *conditions*. However tis left with one M. Carey as it ought to be.

[FROM M. CAREY & SON]

*L. & F.*PHIL. Dec. 1, 1820.

. . . We wish you by all means to leave Balt. on Sunday & come up here. If possible bring with you Davies’ Sermons in 3 Vols¹ as it is out of print here.

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

*L. & F. Vol. 39.*BALT^o. Dec. 6, 1820.

D^r. SIR, . . . I have got a copy of Davies in 3 Vol. 8^o to bring with me . . .

Yrs. respectfy

*L. & F. Vol. 39.*BALT^o. Dec. 8. [1820.]

DEAR SIR. . . . Mrs. Weems has just written me a very affecting letter — As you enjoy the *Pathetic* I transcribe the followg.

¹ ‘Davies’ Sermons on Important Subjects, . . . Boston . . . Jan. 1804, printed in *Book-Trade Bibliography in the United States in the XIXth Century*, by A. Growoll, New York, 1898.

“I am just going home from our sick daughter (from Alexand^a) to buy our Winter provisions. But I have not a Dollar to help me at this critical time. Pork is 4 dollars at this place, & flour 4 but it makes no difference to me who have nothing to buy with. M^r. Carey gave no orders to Jesse to give me money; or if he did he counteracted them and said he had sent it to Brundige and it was sent to me in a fifty dollar note that wou^d not pass, and Jesse inclos^d it to you. We have been uneasy at not hearing from you since.”

Such is the situation of my Family: I make no comments, save that in 13 days I have gotten 1500\$ sub^d & by the BEST MEN in Balt^e., & my wife (a most Excellent woman) and her daughters frighten^d with poverty. But quitting the dreary theme, let me turn to y^r business.

M^r. Toy has the Franklin in hand. He wants the *paper* INSTANTLY. O let it be *good*. Toy says he wants to make the work SHINE. I w^d God you w^d get a better likeness of that greatest of the American Patriots & who has been so *shamefully neglected*. Honest James Lovegrove,¹ the Quaker Bookbinder here, says that he will bind Franklin, for thee at 20 cents — & handsomely. He has a family of sweet little babes — is doing well — but still needs help. Toy says the book shall be *ready* (if you will instantly send the paper) in 5 weeks. Now Friend Lovegrove wishes thee wd send him on the followg Bibles, as he is daily call^d on for Bibles, that he may be in readiness to help M^r. Toy who it seems has no lot nor part in this Bible bargain. of No. 38, 5 cop. of no. 5, 6 copies No. 6 — 5. 33 — 5. of N^o 12 — 6. of 24 & 39, each 2. I know tis y^r nature to aid the feeble & perhaps that has plead so powerfully for you in the Courts of him who forgets not the Young Raven.

I intreat you forget not M^{rs}. Weems. As much friendship as I have for you and Henry, I will go off by myself to Davies & Franklin & Marion &c. &c. rather than have a woman so deservedly dear to me & her daughters starving in pining solitude. I verily believe that if M^{rs}. Carey had written such a letter to you as I got from her, you wou^d print no more Bibles.

¹ ‘Lovegrove, James, book binder and stationer, 20 S Calvert, dw. Lovely lane, S side E of Calvert st’ *Baltimore Directory*, 1822, LC.

L. & F. Vol. 39.
BALT^o. [Dec.] 9. 1820

DEAR SIR — . . . Poor Jesse! I wd you had sent him here rather than to Richmond where he has but 10 or 15 perhaps to supply. Had the distribution been given to *any other Pauper* I sh^d have been more pleas^d. However, the right of distribution was vested in you — and at any rate, “Whatever is, is right.” & there’s an end. You told me of an Excellent horse you had for me. If you *have him still* and if you wish me to come on to Philad^a, please let me know by return of mail. I am anxious to be at ANNAPOLIS, WASHINGTON, Richmond among all the Great & Learned ones there — If I sh^d be prosper^d there as I have been most unexpectedly here, after Messrs Fay, Deaver, Lucas ¹ &c had been sweeping the streets for 3 months, I shall have cause to be mighty thankful indeed. Deliberate well, whether it will be necessary for me to come on at all.

Yours respectfully,

L. & F. Vol. 39.
BALT^o. Dec. 12, [1820.]

DEAR SIR — . . . This is just to inform you that I have reciev^d yours of the 10th and fully purpose, God willing, to take the Steamboat tomorrow morning, I feel some regret at being call^d off a field yielding so good a harvest. but I hope all will be for the best.

L. & F. Vol. 39.
[N.d. received Dec. 19, 1820.]

DEAR SIR — “*God be prais^d!*” say you — “*the Old fellow is alive yet.*”

Amen, I respond — and great indeed the Mercy & the Miracle. Considering such a Run mad Rosinante as I had to whirl me from Philad^a. My arms are in such a tremble I can hardly write even now, tho’ 3 hours ago arrived here — How I escap^d killing the day I left you I cannot conceive or account for on any other ground than the Interest that is taken in me for services that I may hereafter perhaps, instrumentally render to

¹ Presumably competing book agents. The whose accounts with Carey appear in the last named was probably John Lucas of Boston, *Mathew Carey Account Books*, AAS.

our two families & a little to the World. But, to conclude this vile peroration, you may depend on it that my Horse when he left Philad^a had in his Pericardium Animal Gas sufficient to have bursted the boiler of any steamboat. . . .

[M. CAREY & SON TO JESSE WEEMS]

L. & F.

Dec. 20, 1820.

We have recently presented yr father with a horse & gig on condition that he gives you his horse & gig.

[FROM M. CAREY & SON

PHIL. [Dec. 26], 1820.

. . . Remember yr horse requires great managem^t. If you let him go at his own gait which is above 8 miles an hour he will kill himself. You ought not to travel more than 30 or 35 miles p^r day & feed lightly during the day & at night let him have as much as he can eat of oats & hay say of the former 6 quarts.

L. & F. Vol. 39.

GEO. TOWN Dec. 22, 1820

DEAR SIR — . . . Arriv^d here, *night before last* — Very busy all day yesterday in the rain waiting as we contemplated on the Mammoths of Congress. Mr Rufus King,¹ wonderfully gracious — all but adores our Life of Washington — will recommend it to the Nation as the best of all Books for their Children — but could not possibly recommend Lavoisne. He knew *nothing* of it. Next waited on Mr. Otis² — who treated me elegantly — promis^d to recommend yr Book altho', he said, you have handled him & his friends rather roughly in yr Ol[ive]. branch.

In the Countenance of Mr. LOWNDES,³ I met a most affectionate welcome. But he was just going out to DINE, ergo must see him today. At 5 oclock waited on Mr. Munro — found him with his Fair Lady & Friends at table — was receiv^d with a general smile. “*They had just*

¹ The New York publicist and diplomat.

² Harrison Gray Otis, the well-known publicist and at this time United States Senator from Massachusetts.

³ William Lowndes of Charleston, S. C.,

1782–1822, U. S. Congressman, 1820–1821, and one-time nominee for the Presidency of the United States. See *A List of the Members of the House of Representatives at the Second Session of the 16th Congress*, Washington, 1821, 1c.

been talking of my Life of Marion" — the conversation happen^d to turn on a theme fruitful of fine fruits & figures for fancy — mirth & merriment went around — secretly wish^d you had been at the table — for the benefit of languid circulation — in a word I told the object of my visit and got a most gracious promise of the Presidents support of y^r. Work. Just now reciev^d the PRECEEDING from Mr. Otis — You may think it a sad drawing out of time & so do I with deep regret. But these Great Men, engaged as they are in Great business, are not to be seen or dealt with but in their own way. I need not tell you that the delay of Business is as painfully felt by *me* as it can be by you & Henry. I have reciev^d a letter from M^{rs}. Weems, pressing me in very affecting terms to come down & *at least* take Christmass dinner with her. As I have not seen her at home for three long months, I feel it my duty to run down & come back on Tuesday. By that time I shall get our Certificates from the President & M^r. Lowndes, and coming out with them in the Papers, shall make a dash. The Grand Races will commence in Charleston, the first of February, so that if you approve of my going thither I think I can easily get there in time, I really am of opinion with Henry that you wd do well to take y^r Excellent Lady with you & make a trip to Charleston. For Heaven's sake study more the Grand Science of Health & Cheerfulness.

L. & F. Vol. 39.

WASHINGTON Dec. 28, 1820

DEAR SIR — I am just return^d from Dumfries, where I was detain^d two days in place of, as was intended, but one. M^{rs}. Weems looks dreadfully — much emaciated — with a most alarming cough, all indicative of some deep seated malady which I sadly fear points to the grave. How mournful to me that after such long privations & toils as I have cheerfully undergone for an affectionate and beloved Wife that I might gild the evening of her days with Comfort, to find after all that she is, perhaps, only to behold the dawning of that day but never to enjoy it. But thank God, for the happy recollection that my Wife, go when she may, will not go unprepar^d.

As to business, nothing shall turn me aside from that, [*as*] long as I am pledged to you & Henry.

I have never met with such cross-grain^d materials to work upon, as these Presidents & Vice Presidents and Members of Congress. I have been twice with Mr. Munroe, never met with smiles of more cordial friendship, with assurances of a disposition to do everything for the Author of the Olive Branch and for myself — But still nothing is written for me — “*He actually has his hands so full that he cannot find time.*” I have been three times with Mr. Lowndes of S. Carolina, a Mammoth in Public opinion; but he has his scruples about recommending a book that he is not acquainted with — and he is now so busy that *he fears he shall not be able to do anything for me.* John Q. Adams also treats me with exceeding hospitality & attention — but for his part *hopes I will excuse him* — he does not think he can do anything for me but subscribe for a copy which he has done — has made it a rule *never to recommend ANY BOOK*, lest he sh^d be obliged *to recommend all*. From Mr. Munroe’s conversation on the subject I have collected materials which I mean to put together & get him to subscribe to it — for a RECOMMENDATION. Having 3 most Excellent names, Crawford, Wirt & Otis, I have thought of dashing to Annapolis, thence, rapidly, thro’ Balt°. there get an armful of *Circulars* of the *above trio*, with additions of one or two more, i.e. from the PRESIDENT, CALHOUN¹ &c. hasten on to this place, give a boy a trifle to place them in the hands of all the Members (who will by that time be got back from their Christmass holliday) — thus doing all I can by the 20th. Jan^y, set out for Charleston. The Members from that place state that the Grand Races there with the Concourse usually attendant will not commence before the middle of February. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 39.

WASHINGTON Dec. 29 — [18]20

DEAR SIR. Inclement as the weather is I mean this hour to start for Annapolis — from that to Balt°. — thence with a quiver full of fresh artillery, to return to the charge at Washington, and so pass on to Charleston. God’s arm strike with us! But while an early dinner is preparing for me, the concomitant Epistle from my accomplish^d Niece²

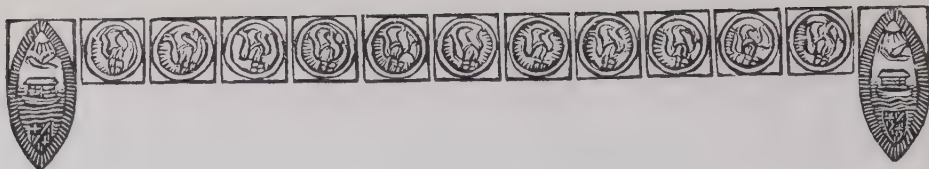
¹ John Caldwell Calhoun, 1782–1850, the South Carolinian orator.

² Neither this niece nor her work — if ever printed — has been identified.

was put into my hands. I hardly need tell you that I have perused it with much pleasure. For besides its mechanical recommendation of a beautiful hand, with the sentimental ditto of a diction uncommonly chaste uttering with equal delicacy & pathos the prayer of an Amiable young Female rudely assailed by misfortune, it possesses recommendations of a still more momentous character.

Humanity on the largest scale enjoins I think, that you above most others, shou'd print this book in question — To mitigate pain — to heal disease and thus to fill innumerable houses with Smiles of joy for Beloved Relatives happily snatch'd from the Opening Jaws of Mortality, were of itself, to a Gentleman of your feelings, a motive most powerful, but how much more powerful that motive when back'd by the prospect of great pecuniary advantage thence accruing. I need not tell you that this, *fortunately for us all*, is eminently the case with this book, which, with but few exceptions, is one of the most popular in the U. States. Your fair Petitioner who is indeed enrich'd with a Mind & Manners almost Unequalled, has often solicited my cooperation, which, tho' strongly prompted thereto by affection, I have constantly refused, because inconsistent with my many obligations to you & Henry. But shou'd you prompted by the multifarious motives that point to this book such as, the gratification of yr own Intuitive Benevolence in aiding a most Deserving young Female — with the wish of doing much service to the Public, and of enriching Yourself — I say, shoud you consent to undertake it, I shall then feel myself freed from the aforesaid restraints, and urged on by the Double impulse of Public & Private Benefit, shall no doubt easily succeed in circulating a very large edition. You will please keep in mind that it is not *once* dreamt of by me that this book tho' of great merit & some magnitude is to interfere in the least with Vesey, Lavoisne &c &c.

Yours, as usual,



It were a kind of treason to remove the imperfections from me, which in me are ordinary and constant. — MONTAIGNE.

[FROM M. CAREY & SON]

L. & F.

Jan. 11, 1821.

. . . We think you ought to use all diligence to get off to Charleston or you will be quite too late . . .

[‘To the Rev. M. L. Weems, who never, it seems, did things by halves, it (*was*) necessary to write in 1821, “For Heaven sake do not encourage every man who has written a Book no matter whether good or bad to apply to us. You worry us to Death. We have full as much on our hands as we can manage.”’ *Mathew Carey*, Earl L. Bradsher, 1912, p.54, AAS.]

[FROM M. CAREY & SON TO JESSE EWELL WEEMS]

L. & F.

Mar. 4, 1821.

We are very certain that had your father undertaken the delivery, the whole would have been completed in six weeks. [Jesse had taken from four to five months.]

[*M. L. W.*]

‘COMMUNICATION.

“The righteous man is merciful to his beast.” THE BIBLE, *A Card to the Gentlemen of the Jockey Club*. The undersigned begs permission to tender to their patronage an “AMERICAN POCKET FARRIER,” a publication peculiarly accordant with their laudable sympathies with the noble animal, the hero of it. Their character as a Club professedly tutelary of the Horse, is proof that they duly appreciate him in all his varieties of usefulness to mankind; whether slowly dragging the sacred plough, or rapidly flying with the mail stage — whether wantonly prancing away before the stately coach bright with the sparkling beauties, or furiously dashing into the thickest battle, desolating the

field in his course; and yet after all, suffering himself to be led by a child or beaten by a ragged slave! Not to puff this noblest of quadrupeds, but to perfect him is the design of this little book — to teach how best to exalt his beauties and his utilities — how to improve his form and constitution — to rear him to the elegance and vigour of his nature — to ascertain his character; his peculiar destination; and the appropriate plan of his education — also infallibly to mark his age; to detect his secret blemishes; and above all to discriminate and heal his diseases. And all this, not like foreign farriers, in the pedantic language of Technicals which few understand, nor by Pharmaceutical receipes which fewer still can purchase, but in terms, and by medicines chiefly domestic, and equally simple and powerful. The whole embellished with engravings exquisitely illustrative of the four great varieties of the Horse.

M. L. WEEMS.

The above valuable work may be had at W. H. Barrett's Bookstore, cor. of Broad and State-streets.'

Times (Charleston), Mar. 22, 1821, CLS.

[TO TEFT & FINN.¹]

Dreer Col. HSP.

CHARLESTON. Ap. 10th. 1821.

GENTLEMEN, By the "Courier" of today you will receive some printed papers from which you will discover that I am engaged, in *endeavoring*, at least, to accomplish what all, I hope, who command the heavy artillery of the Press have, more or less, in view, i.e to enlighten the Public mind & thereby exalt the Moral & Political Character especially of the rising Generation.² Mr. Millington,³ of the "Courier" tells me that there is some conflict among the Printers of y^r City, as generally in all Cities, but that you have acquir^d an ascendancy which I am willing to ascribe partly at least to y^r superior obligingness & Liberality. Under

¹ At this time editors of *The Georgian*. See succeeding page.

² The article, an advertisement of *Lavoisne's Atlas*, actually appeared in the *Charleston Courier* of April 4, 1821, CLS. See *Bibliography*, title 254, note 3.

³ Sometime between 1803 and 1812 a new partnership commenced to publish the *Courier*,

Merchant Willington & Co., continuing until the War of 1812 was over, when Mr. Willington became sole proprietor and publisher in 1813, and continued until January, 1833, when the firm became A. S. Willington & Co. See *Reminiscences of Charleston*, J. N. Cordozo, Charleston, 1866, p. 32, LC.

this supposition I feel a disposition to give you the preference to print for me the "*Prospectus & Letters recommendatory*" (as pr the Courier package) of the Historical Atlas alluded to above. My mind, to be explicit & honest, is this — to print letters from Great Public Characters, also essays on Subjects of high public utility as Education &c. is what is readily done, in the way of Communications by all Newspaper Printers — but to print a Prospectus of a Book no matter how publicly useful, yet as for Individual benefit, no Editor can be expected, unless paid for it. So far we are agreed. But still I w^d not wish that such a Prospectus sh^d be so *strictly* dealt with as by the *square*. If however you choose to print it, as Mr. Millington, Gale,¹ Ritchie² & all others do in a liberal way, and take a *handsome copy in return*, I shall be glad you w^d immediately insert the Prospectus, sent you with the 3 letters subjoin^d. 1 from the Secretary of the Treasury. 2^d. from the Attorney General. 3^d from Senator H. G. Otis. I wish the work to appear in y^r paper soon as possible, as I am now just setting out for y^r City, & w^d like to avail myself of that advantage at once, without loss of time. The rest shall be discuss^d when I see you.

Yours, respectfully

[M. L. W.]

‘COMMUNICATED FOR THE GEORGIAN.

MEMOIR OF A FINE GIRL

MESSRS. TEFFT & FINN, I beg leave, through the medium of your paper, to do this public obeisance to the Divinity of Learning, in the case of ANNE SMITH, of Ann-Arundel county, Maryland. This young female, who brought with her neither beauty nor fortune into the world, was endowed with a *tertium quid*, worth both the former put together; I mean a strong appetite for the banquet of intellectual pleasures. Young BEN. FRANKLIN himself, was never more fond of

¹ One of the proprietors of a Washington newspaper. Probably the Joseph Gales referred to in *Procrustes*, Vol. XXXII, p. 124.

² ‘The proprietors of the Richmond Enquirer, have mutually dissolved their connection. Mr. Ritchie, who will now have the exclu-

sive management of that excellent paper . . . addresses his patrons in the following pertinent language: To the friends of the Enquirer: . . . Thomas Ritchie.’ *Democrat* (Boston, Mass.), Aug. 10, 1805, BA.

books, which, like him, she was obliged to borrow; and flying to them every spare moment she could snatch from her numerous attentions to an aged grandmother, on whose charity she lived. Just as she had fully gotten out of her teens, death deprived her of her aged relation, and turned her adrift on the world. Instantly the thought occurred that she would commence the school-mistress. The ladies of the neighborhood, who had long been enamoured of her accomplishments, gladly committed their little boys and girls to her tuition. Sweetning the pap of science with the sugar and nutmeg of a sister-like tenderness and patience, she soon got her little pupils so fond of that heavenly food, that their growth in learning became the theme of general conversation far and near. A large academy was presently built for her; and now, after having contributed instrumentally, to bless and adorn the land with hundreds of accomplished *Cornelias*, the future mothers, we hope, of an [*sic*] American *Gracchi*, she is become mistress of an elegant fortune, and all but idolized by an enlightened public.¹

. . . That the example of this truly excellent woman, may impress all the young ones of her sex with a proper sense of the importance of *education*, and that their parents may feel the great obligation of giving them the *aid* of the universally admired "ATLAS OF LAVOISNE," you will please publish the following letters from two of our revolutionary soldiers, the first of the Church, and the other of the State, I mean Dr. R. Furman, and Gen. Charles Cotsworth, Pinckney of Charleston.

[*Unsigned.*]

"*Charleston, March 30th, 1821.*

SIR — I am very glad to find you are engaged in the publication of an American edition of *Le Sage's valuable Atlas*, enlarged by Lavoisne, and improved by editions of all that materially relates to the history

¹ That the public, even in New England, had been singularly in need of enlightenment is evident from the fact that girls had been excluded from public schools in Boston prior to 1789. See *American Journal of Education*, Vol. XIII, p. 243. — Also, of Mrs. Hopkins, the wife of 'the Governor of Hartford upon Conn.,' it is recorded that her husband brought her to Boston 'a godly young woman, and of special parts) who was fallen into a sad infirmity, the loss of her understanding and reason, which had been growing upon her divers years, by occasion of her giving herself wholly

to reading and writing, and had written many books. Her husband, being very loving and tender of her, was loath to grieve her; but he saw his error, when it was too late. For if she had attended her household affairs and such things as belong to women, and not gone out of her way and calling to meddle in such things as are proper for men, whose minds are stronger, etc., she had kept her wits, and might have improved them usefully and honorably in the place God had set her.' *History of New England*, John Winthrop, 1853, Vol. II, pp. 265-266, AAS.

and statistics of the United States, to the end of the last year. I shall be happy to see so useful a work received in our schools and colleges, and form a part of the library of every scholar and gentlemen [*sic*] in the country. With earnest wishes for the success of your undertaking, I remain your most obedient servant,

CHARLES C. PINCKNEY

The rev. MASON L. WEEMS.

Charleston, 13th March, 1821.

REV. SIR — I have availed myself of the opportunity your kindness afforded, of taking a general view of "*Mons. Lavoisne's Atlas*," exhibiting an extensive view of the General Geography, History, and Chronology of our world, on the plan of "*Mons. Le Sage*," as it is now publishing in an approved edition, by Messrs. Carey & Son, Philadelphia.

It is a pleasure to me to observe, that it *is a work of real merit, and well calculated for extensive usefulness — a work which must greatly facilitate the acquisition of knowledge in those important sciences of which it treats*; and [*will*] prove a ready, faithful assistant to the man of letters, to help his recollection, and enable him to take clear, well-connected, and enlarged views of those subjects on any particular occasion; as they may concern the Philosopher, the Politician, the Philanthropist, or the Divine, to each of which, as well as to the Student in general Science, the work must be singularly useful, and open a rich source of intellectual pleasure.

To have truths, which are only brought ordinarily into the mind's view by close study, recollection, mental combination, and comparison of ideas, exhibited to our sight, in the order of a regular, just arrangement, in the dress of pleasing colours and in forms which convey instruction while they please, is certainly a great advantage; and especially in favour of that interesting object ever dear to the heart of the faithful parent and true philanthropist — the real improvement of the youthful mind.

I cannot forbear mentioning another subject which afforded me much satisfaction while running my eye over these luminous pages — it is this: the respectful attention it manifests to the Bible History and Chronology, which indeed form the basis of all true ancient history and calculation of time, but which Infidel Philosophy has endeavoured to undermine.

The inventor of this scheme, and those who have improved upon it, are entitled to high praise for their ingenuity, research, and labour in the cause of science and useful knowledge; and especially for adjusting a

work of this nature with so much care, in favour of Divine Revelation. Coming also from France, where sceptical philosophy and impiety have so much prevailed for many years, the work is in this view, rendered more particularly grateful. I hope, therefore, your labours in circulating the present edition of it, will be crowned with abundant success.

I remain, with a due respect, Rev. Sir, your obedient servant.

RICHARD FURMAN.”’

Georgian (Savannah), May 16, 1821, GAHS. A reprint, with different letters of commendation, of an article in the *Charleston Courier*, Mar. 23, 1821, CLS.

‘The Rev. Mr. Weems, by request, will deliver a lecture, this afternoon, at five o’clock, on the Advantage of Education, to the youth of our City, in *Mr. Falker’s School Room*. The children of the different schools, as well as other persons, are respectfully invited to attend.’

[*Unsigned.*]

Georgian (Savannah), May 24, 1821, GAHS.

‘Yesterday . . . in pursuance of a request issued by the Grand Master of Georgia, . . . the Masons of this city, assembled near Cherokee hill, eight miles distant, for the purpose of laying the cornerstone of a church, appropriated [*sic*] for all denominations of christianity. . . . The Masonic ceremonies were succeeded by a sermon from the Rev. A. SWEAT, and an eloquent exhortation by that truly valuable and benevolent man, and citizen, the Rev. M. L. WEEMS.’

Georgian (Savannah), May 28, 1821, CLS.

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 45.

CHARLESTON June 30. 1821.

DEAR SIR — . . . I have thoughts of running tomorrow to Walterborough, 50 miles distant. My friends here tell me to make my Will & order measure[*s*] of my Coffin before I set out — the country between being all made up of bogs & swamps & dens of death. But I feel a fearlessness about it, that is, to my mind, tantamount to a good passport. I intreat you to take time & have yr Am[erican].Le Sage so finish^d as to become the talk of the Nation. You’ll hardly ever print another Original of this Size, then make it as the last struggle of Sampson when

collecting all his might he overwhelm^d the towers of Dagon & demolish^d more of the Philistines in his Death than he had done in life. I pray you do not content yourself with giving with each State only such historical & statistical notices as the narrow margins of that one map can contain. Oh no. Let them be one full leaf (2 pages) forming a “*tabula mne-monica*” of *all the valuable memoranda of each state!* And it w^d be infinite wisdom in you, now that you have time before you to make a most spirited correspondence with fit *men* in every state who will, for the honor of having a hand in this great national work, cheerfully give their ample portions. Judge Johnson kindled into pleasure at the bare mention of it. I know not that I shall run this “*Amⁿ. Le Sage*” with you; but if so, I shall be glad to do it with an undivided mind & unfetter^d hands; ergo the sooner that the books, to be given me for Franklin & Marion, can be disposed of the better. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 45.

CHARLESTON July 14. [1821.]

DEAR SIR — . . . everything in readiness to set out tomorrow morning, via Camden, Salisbury, Lynchburg & the hot springs for Dumfries & Philadelphia, to wind up the old, and if mutually agreeable to begin one of a new. The pamphlets, tho scarcely mention^d in the papers, have as in all other places succeeded admirably here. . . .

My friends here, who seem to be numerous, *all* shake their heads at mention of my traversing the low fenny Country & Rice Swamps on my solitary way home, saying I had better sell off horse & gig & come to you by water. But, thank God, my heart leaps for joy at thought of setting out for home. If the Angel of Death sh^d meet me on the road, I shall fall asleep in [*the*] sweet hope that you will do Justice, as you have always done, to those I leave behind. If, in that event, you cou^d give M^{rs}. Weems for Franklin & Marion such money as you think right, it w^d be a great help to her in her widow^d state, which I do not think w^d be long.¹ And in reward, perhaps Providence the friend of widows & orphans, might send me, of nights, [*as*] Counsellor of good to you. Let me again intreat you not to forget my advice to you about the American Le Sage — make it *ample, ample, ample* —

¹ Mrs. Weems actually lived until 1843.

[M. L. W.]

‘COMMUNICATION.

PRINTING IN THE U. STATES — A CURIOSITY

Our readers will be struck with an astonishment of the most agreeable sort, when they learn that the “Historical Atlas,” by Lavoisne, though containing 71 super-royal maps, with an immense mass of illustrations, has gone through the press of the indefatigable M. Carey & Son, Philadelphia, into the 3d edition, in the short space of 16 months — a thing not paralleled in the history of printing in any country.

As nothing can afford a stronger proof of the rapidly increasing thirst for learning in these U. States, so nothing can more clearly demonstrate the intrinsic merit of this admirable compendium of education and reference in universal history. In fact it may very fairly be looked on as a “*Grand Literary Beehive*,” of historical sweets, diligently culled from every valuable flower in the ample gardens of human learning, and carefully selected from those heaps of trash, wherewith the vanity of authors too generally crowd their books. — Here, if a young man has not courage to attack an Alexandrian Library, and yet has the very laudable curiosity to possess as much of their precious contents as may serve to entertain himself and his friends, all that he has to do is just open Lavoisne’s Atlas, and there, in the shortest and pleasantest manner imaginable, he can learn whatever is important in the history of every nation on earth — as, first and geographically, what sort of country they inhabit; in what part of the globe they dwell; what climate they breathe; what soil they cultivate, and what produce they export; what rivers intersect; what mountains shade, and what oceans wash their territory — also, what its extent, not merely in degrees of latitude and longitude, but even of square miles and acres, thus enabling him to compare his own country, say S. Carolina, with any state in the Union, or with any of the mightiest empires, as Russia, Turkey or China. And here also, with a facility most instantaneous and delightful, he can make himself acquainted, secondly and historically, with the people or branch of Adam’s family, inhabiting any particular section of the earth; their origin, whether from the Patriarch, Shem, or Ham, or Japheth; their population, whether, like these U. States, in the ratio of two souls to the square mile, or like Italy, 222, or like China, near 300 to the square mile. — Also their religion, whether Mahometans, Christians or Pagans — their forms of Government and National character; whether, like men, they have had the heroic virtue to exert great industry and mutual justice, thereby securing each other’s esteem and love, and so, like invincible bands of brethren, dwelling together under

the shadow of their own vine and fig-tree of liberty and independence, no tyrant daring more than to grin at them — or whether, like children and fools, preferring ignoble ease to honest labor, and for foreign baubles of costly furniture and fashions, beggaring themselves, and withholding their pay from the laboring poor, they have kindled the hellish flows of mutual hate, insurrection and civil war, and ended under the iron yoke of merciless tyrants. — And here too, 3dly and genealogically, the student may see the long race of these merciless tyrants, from “Nimrod the mighty hunter,” down to Napoleon; and how, for aggrandizement of their own proud families and favorites, they have robbed the weeping babes of their brown bread, and then led their wretched fathers to bloody fields, (in this work pointed out by red flags) to have their throats cut by millions! And here, too, he may see what the equally merciless tyrants in the Church of God have done — yes, what the Popes, and Bishops and Priests, getting money and power, and commencing Antichrists, have done; how, preaching up themselves and not Christ, and in place of his heavenly love, magnifying their own carnal notions about faiths, and baptisms, and sacraments, and “Mother Churches”; and for difference of opinion concerning these “beggary elements,” have anathemized each other as heretics, and worried one another like beasts of prey, — Catholics burning Protestants, and Protestants burning Catholics to death, thus bringing odium on the Gospel and filling the world with infidels. These and ten thousand other truths in the history of man, of the most valuable character, may be instantly turned to in this admirable work, which is equally calculated to pour floods of light upon the minds of youthful students, and trim the fading lamps of veteran scholars.

Ye generous Parents, who would preserve your rosy cheek'd boys from grovelling sensualities, and your lovelier daughters from the more refined, but equally pernicious vanities of dress, remember that this is to be accomplished only by giving them the far better pleasures of the mind — pre-eminent among which stands an early passion for soul subliming science.

The undersigned is still receiving subscriptions for this admired work.

A subscription paper is opened at this office, also at the post-office.

M. L. WEEMS.

A part of the profits to be given to the Sunday Schools of Charleston.' *Charleston Courier*, July 14, 1821, CLS.

1821]

LETTERS

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 45.

CAMDEN. Aug. 1, 1821.

DEAR SIR — Owing to inundations unwitness^d by the Oldest of women born in this Country — & to the Obstacles thereby rais^d in the roads & Rivers, on my rout from Charleston I did not reach this place till yesterday 12 o'Clock — within 5 miles of this village I was completely ingulph^d in a Quagmire — both of the shafts of my gig broken, my horse & self within an ace of being drown^d.¹ The order above is for Judge Brevard² . . .

[TO HENRY C. CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 45.

DUMFRIES [*n.d. received Sept 25, 1821.*]

DEAR SIR. . . . I sent you the Original for a Show bill for the Looking Glasses &c. If it be not yet struck off sh^d like to see a proof by the next mail. If it *be finish^d* you will please send on with assortments as by advice in my last. Please add to that list as follows — . . .

I have some important plans to suggest to you. Am now got pretty well again. Long to see you. Let me know by *return of mail* when y^r. Honor^d father will be back — whether it is safe to come via Balt^o. & steamboat — and whether safe in Philad^a — I pray you never more send

¹ All parts of the country suffered more or less from this condition: 'The first four-wheeled buggy, so called, used in Athens, [*Ga.*] was made . . . in 1825. Prior to that date gigs for the few and riding horses for the many were the usual modes of locomotion, though a carriage was occasionally seen. Goods were transported by wagon and the teamster of the day was the roughest of characters. He religiously abjured the use of soap and water to his person or clothes, during a round trip of a fortnight or three weeks — cooking, eating, sleeping at night over lightwood knot fires, splashing through mud and mire and heaving at the wheels when *stalled* during the day . . . The public roads during the winter were generally in a wretched condition . . . The merchants and farmers, the one to buy goods and the other to sell cotton and tobacco, always went on horseback, and three days of steady

riding were required to go from Athens to Augusta. A loaded wagon required a week, if the roads were in good condition. . . . In the winter of 1817 . . . the horses would walk in mud deeper than their knees, and after making one trip, not only the hair but in many cases the skin would be entirely removed from their legs.' *Annals of Athens, Georgia, 1801-1901*, Laystreet Hull, 1906, pp. 75-77, GAHS.

² Joseph Brevard, of South Carolina, 1766-1821; compiler of law reports, 1783-1815; also author of *Digest of the State Law* to 1814; in 1802, elected one of the Judges of the highest State Court; member of U. S. Congress for his district, 1818-1820. See *Historic Camden*, Thomas J. Kirkland and Robert M. Kennedy, Camden, S. C., 1905, Part One, Colonial and Revolutionary, p. 321, LC.

100\$ to my family. 60 pr month is enough & 200 wd not suffice — such is the multitude & Rapacity of my Dear Wife's Relat[ive]^s. & so unreasonably indulgent is she!

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 45.

DUMFRIES Oct. 3^d. 1821.

DEAR SIR — I am much surpris^d & troubled at y^r not writing an answer to mine 8 days ago. I told you that I was recover^d from the effects of the melting heat, fatigue & noxious miasmata of that Southern clime & that I was ready to come on and wind up old affairs, and, if mutually agreeable, open a score denovo, and with the ardour of 16, not 60, recommence the delectable work of enlightening & regenerating the world & of blessing our own Country in particular. I begg^d you to let me know if “one M. Carey was return^d from the roar of Niagara,” also whether it wd be safe for a man of such importance to the World as I am to come on direct to Philad^a thro’ the infected streets of Balt^o. . . .

Tempus fugit and I long to be doing.

[FROM M. CAREY & SON]

L. & F.

Oct. 4, 1821.

. . . We deem it highly advisable for you to come on here to make arrangm^{ts} for a new Campaign.

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 45.

DUMF. Oct. 12, 1821.

DEAR SIR — . . . You ask — . . .

3^d. *Can you obtain 500 subs “for Atlas in S. Carol^a?”*

Answer. No doubt there are *rich men* enough in that state to subscribe for that number — if they were properly *work^d upon* — *all depends on that* — and, thank God, my chances are good.

4th. *“We wish to know what are y^r views”*

Answer. I have told you once or twice since I return^d, that I am *willing to cooperate with you*. Owing to most unfortunate errors in times past we have done but little, with great means. Those errors are now detected. And from good will to you & good wishes for my Country

& own Family, I am ready to commence *de novo* & *con Spirito* proportion^d to the Greatness of the aim & the Shortness of the time to do it in. My idea is as it ever has been, that, *two birds may be kill^d at a throw*. To set up throughout the Nation large parcels of miscellaneous books, heavy priced & badly assorted, is, I very well know an unfailing receipt to make a Rich man poor: But still it is not less true that there are books that will sell. The brave & virtuous fathers of our Republic, as, Washington, Franklin, & Marion, will sell, and indeed by proper management might be made School Books — these you possess. Besides this, every Parent knows that, after all his labours for his son, that son may quickly be thrown to the Dogs & the dung hill by drinking, Gambling, Wenching & Duelling: hence, with all considerate Parents, there is good hope that *short, cheap, ad captand. pamphlets* on those most interesting subjects will ever be popular. The trial has been made, & with a success abundantly sufficient to encourage perseverance. Now to say nothing of motives arising from Philanthropy & Patriotism of which you possess a stock equal to the most, I think on principles purely pecuniary you ought with Lavoisne & the Grand Bible to run y^r Wash. Frank. Marion & the Look^s Glasses especially as my uncommonly extensive travels & acquaintance furnish me such good opportunities to make establishments, & my past experiments must bind me to do it in the safe & right way. You have b'ot the Biograph^s. I will sell you the Looking Glasses, at the most reasonable rates; and as I am very strongly affected with a sense of the exceeding charity of setting before young minds the examples of such Virtues as are delineated in the Biograph^s. and such Vices as the Lookg Glasses hold up I will take *any commission* that you shall think perfectly warranted by your own prudence. It is our lot to live in a time uncommonly important to Posterity — a time when the sacred fire of Liberty is confin^d to one torch, and that burning in our own country. Vice is the Azote, and Virtue the Grand vital element of that fire, and my belief is that the day will surely come when to minds enlightened^d like ours, nothing but what we have done to maintain that holy fire will afford us any pleasure. I have great advantages — such as habitual Exercise, Temperance, cheerfulness, extensive acquaintance, general acceptableness to the World & much Experience, and if you will, as you are wont, show yourselves good friends to me by settling with me liberally

& lending me a little money for a needful purpose, I shall be willing to be as one with you, for the next 2 or 3 years, which may, thro' a concurring Providence, be the Best we have yet had. You have sent me several boxes, but unless the Show bills, as directed, were sent, *nothing will be done!!!* I have had 10000 trials & yet you LACK FAITH!

In the morning I set off. Hope to see you by the 18th.

[To THOMAS JEFFERSON]

Pierpont Morgan Library.
DUMFRIES Octob. 14 — 21.

VERY HONOR^d SIR, I have a favor to ask you —

The great success I have had in my Amⁿ. Biographies has tempted me to add another great man to the list, i. e. W^m. Penn. I have been told that a piece of the Maple, immortalized by his treaty with the Delaware Indians, converted into a cup was sent to you — with some appropriate lines.

Have you any objection to do my book the honor to give those lines a place in it?

If you have not, please get one of your family to transcribe them in a letter to me, at Philadelphia to care of

Mathew Carey & Sons.

Yours, with a good will that shall last long as the sun & moon give light

I set out to Philad^a tomorrow, & may be there 10 or 12 days.

The widow of yr old Schoolmate & early friend Col^o Jesse Ewell has the fever of the season.

Endorsed by Jefferson: Sir The informt you have rec^d of my being in possn of a piece of the maple under which Penn treated with the Indians is entirely a fable. I know nothing of such a relick. Any informn I could have given should have been quite at your service. Accept my respectf^l. salut^{ns}.

[To M. CAREY & SONS (*sic*)]

L. & F. Vol. 45.
ALEXANDRIA, NOV. 8, 1821.

DEAR GENTLES, . . . Agreeably to request too I got the paper of the 19th of Octob. for one M. Carey Esq^r. — & now send it on. James Love-

grove, Quaker & Bookbinder, Balt^o. owed me 39.50 for various dealings in *yr books & his*. Know^g Spelling books w^d be a good article to go with yr little sure card stores, I desired him to send to you, to that am^t. (39.50) in Spelling books (chiefly Webster) at 2.50 pr doz. You will please give me credit, & send them a dozen in each box in future. I was yesterday, all day, very busy in running over my accounts with the numerous persons who for the last 3 or 4 years have been buying books, or selling books for me, and I find that I have to the amount of 4000 Dollars, outstanding. What part is sold, is uncertain; but certainly some is sold & the money ready I hope. A great part of it, I see, is in small sums. Some few have paid to Jesse, some I fear to Elijah; and upon the whole I do not know but it were better to get Jesse, who has travelled with me to most of these places, & *knows* many of the Families, to take his gig and go around at once to them all, receiving what monies can be paid, taking notes, repacking & nail up the boxes, and thus by send^g. the ballances home, wind up the thing & be done with it.

I send you however the following names. . . . As I cannot, owing to the circumstances above, give you, in all cases, the exact amount of debits, I wish you w^d premise your applications to them with something like the followg "Our Agent the Rev^d M. L. Weems, deposited with you some of our Books to dispose of for him on commission. As he is now engaged in the Carolinas & Georgia on Important business of ours that will not permit him the honor to call on you himself, this note is to request you will give us a statement & remit us the ballance due" &c &c.

. . . As soon as the Duellist [*is*] finish^d, have 6 or 8 sets *neatly* $\frac{1}{2}$ bound red backs & corners & sent to me to Charleston in some box to Mr. B. I wish to get Gen^l C. C. Pinckney & other great men there to turn the attention of the Public to them. I think you ought to send 200 of each Variety to *me* to care of Berret, independent of the little boxes that I may order. I brought you up from poor Mrs. Charles, 12 varieties of her little heart touching books for children as, "*My father — My Mother — My Brother — My Sister.*"¹ You will help many a poor child

¹ Can this have any connection with the following: "My Mother," by Ann Taylor, which [*was*] soon followed by "My Father" "My Governess" "My Pony" . . . sets of books brought out by [*William*] Charles [*of Philadelphia*] about eighteen hundred and sixteen . . . "Original Poems," and "Rhymes for the Nursery," by these sisters [*Jane and Ann Taylor*], were to the old-time child what Stevenson's "Child's Garden of Verses" is to

by putting these little moral “*go-carts*” in his hands. Christian Children are taught *beathen* languages, and *Worldly Sciences*; but very rarely have they had Preceptors to “teach their young ideas how to shoot” — into startling recollections of what they owe to a tender mother, to a generous father, to a little brother or sister with whom they began life, and who, like second selves, were their fellow sharers in all its first and liveliest joys & sorrows. Hence, not having poor Nature’s Crab [*apple*] early grafted on, by the Rich exotics of Education, they yield nothing but rough & bitter fruits thro’ life. You often speak of it as matter of great Joy that, “you have, thro’ life, employ^d so many poor People, particularly young People, to get *honest & comfortable bread*.” It is indeed matter of great Joy. But still it will be greater Joy to help young minds to that tenderness of Conscience & firmness in resisting vice & in doing duty, that will cover their days tho’ poor, like barren hills, with gayest & sweetest flowers” —

“Come on then, since life can little more supply,
Than just to look around us and to *die!*”

let us, like the Genuine Falernian, growing better, as we grow older, let us, who have already done something for the World, try if Heaven will not honor us to do something better still & worthy of long remembrance. These moralizing Biographies especially with Penn in the squadron, & the *Moral Looking Glasses*, will help many a poor child to early wisdom, and Patriotism & Honor like Washington &c &c. You talk^d of 5000 Dolls to be invested in that property. You count about 60 Dollars of this to each store, i.e. 12 Wash. 12 F. 12 Mar. & 18 of each variety of L. Glasses. Now add 2 or 3 low-pric^d i.e. yellow paper^d Bible[*s*] @ 5 00 which will, to a moral certainty sell — and a doz. spell^g. books & 2 doz. Primers, & one dozen of each of about 8 or 10 varieties of poor Mrs. Charles^s “*Moral-go-carts*,” and you have perhaps, 2 or 3 excellent little things in Quantity now lying dead upstairs. However it is all in proper hands, ergo. I conclude,

Best wishes to M^{rs}. C. & family.

the modern nursery . . . The Taylors were the originators of that long series of verses for infants which “My Sister” and “My Governess” strove to surpass but never in any way

equalled, although they apparently met with a fair sale in America.’ *Forgotten Books of the American Nursery*, Rosalie V. Halsey, Boston, 1911, p. 182.

1821]

LETTERS

[TO MR. WEIR, CENTREVILLE,
FAIRFAX COUNTY, CARE OF HENRY
SLADE — ALEXANDRIA]

L. & F. Vol. 45.

[Postmarked Dumfries, Nov. 17, 1821.]

. . . In yr. letter to each, beg they w^d fix the Show bill *open* on a board to prevent *tearing* it & to keep it steady . . .

I want all the old things to be clear^d away that I may have no Obstacles. I really think to spend in Georgia & S. Carolina the two coming years — & wind up & finish all. If I die I may as well go to a Society of Good People from that Country as from Dumfries. Please have my Blairs laid by & send me 4 or 5 copies in each box that you may send to my orders (of your books) I mean to the *South*.

Yours respectfully

How do you come on with Penn?

[TO HENRY C. CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 45.

DUMFRIES, Nov. 18, 1821

DEAR SIR, I fully purposed to leave home for Georgia, this morning; but the piteous moanings of my only little Grandson¹ now dying in the next apartment, have arrested my journey for the day. My gig is thoroughly repair'd — my new clothes finished — and in the morning I shall, God willing, set out at all events, leaving his grandmother to inhume the dust of the innocent fugitive. I am infinitely desirous to do something this time — and for that purpose I shall hurry off to you every book of yours that remains unsold that I can find in my track. You will find it your interest in every box that you send to me, to put at any rate one half of the Looking Glasses, in neat half binding, red backs, & corners. I hope to make a noise about them in the South, that will sell a great many. . . .

You said that in this contract, you w^d give every thing a *fair trial* — I w^d advise you to follow the excellent idea of yr father — viz. to strike off on a small type — a hand bill of the large show bill & put one *in every pamphlet*. “He saves the Country who checks vice” — and again “A VIRTUOUS PEOPLE WILL BE FREE” and again “*True Self love &*

¹ Presumably the child of his daughter 1821, leaving her baby, apparently, in Mrs. Susan Anne, who herself had died in October, Weems' care. (See *Appendix XVII.*)

Social is the Same." I dont know how it may turn out but I have a strong hope that Providence will make your Father like Sampson, most useful & glorious at the last. I have a great favor to ask of you — viz, in y^r next letter to London order for me a copy of Dodd's Sermons on the Miracles of Christ & Harwood on the Parables, and a little book called "A NEW YEAR'S GIFT"¹ also in a box to Berrett, send me a book on each of the two great subjects mention^d above. The Rev. M^r. Hurley & Abercrombie will aid us in the selection.

Yours, D^r. Sir, most respectfully,

My horse is at the door — *now*.

L. & F. Vol. 45.

BOWLING GREEN, NOV. 21, 1821

TO M. CAREY & SONS [*sic*].

DEAR SIRs, . . . Mr. Gerardine, much admir'd by M^r Jefferson, as a Linguist, is very desirous of translating for you the Life of the Great Washington — as a School Book for exercise of Classes in *the French*² — he says it w^d shine in the French — he will do it in style for 250 Doll^s — And probably, w^d take it out in books.

Nov. 22, 1821.

I am now at Port Royal — on my way to see two or three of those who have been owing me for a long while and about whom I have had some fears — I shall take Westmoreland Court in my way — Got a large well going horse for the gig since I saw you — he is badly snag^d or scratch^d somehow or other — am afraid I shall have to put back & get my old one. But of this you may rest assur'd that I shall not lose one hour of time unnecessarily. . . .

¹ Either *A New Year's gift*, written a few years ago, by a young woman in England, and presented to her nieces and nephews, and now re-published . . . to which is annexed, a few lines

on procrastination; Concord, 1792 [LC.], or an earlier edition of *The New Year's gift*; and juvenile souvenir, London, 1832, LC.

² Never done, so far as I have discovered.

1821]

LETTERS

[TO HENRY C. CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 45.

DUMFRIES, Dec. 4, 1821.

DEAR SIR, . . . Owing to MISFORTUNE of a LAME HORSE, I am just return^d to Dumfries. Shall hitch in another & start, God willing, to-morrow morning. . . .

Looking over the items of our late agreement, I do not see it specified that the books, on sales with Agents, are to be *at your risk*. I mean as to insolvency. I say it is not so express^d — in totidem verbis, but from this mountain Gross argument — only 10 pr cent commission allow^d me, I have all along been led into the conclusion that I cou^d not possibly be responsible. I well remember that, in my arguments with you to *run this little business* of the Biography & Pamphlet bookstores with the heavy works of Vesey & Lavoisne, I observed that your profits on these publications especially if *stereotyp^d* wd be so immense that if even one agent in every 10 or a dozen shoud prove insolvent you w^d still make great gain. And as my profits on these little things — from 33 1/3 on the Biog. & 40 on the pamphlets — are by *my own proposition* reduc^d to 10, which w^d under my responsibility [*be*] utterly impracticable, I fell into the inference above. You will please let me know whether this is not your view of the subject. It is true that I feel a determination to *use such caution* in the choice of agents as shall, as near as possible, preclude all risk from the quarter just mention^d, especially for such a SMALL AMOUNT as each agent shall be entrusted with; But still I wish it to be perfectly understood — which will be peculiarly proper now that we are at the very threshold of our present contract.

L. & F. Vol. 45.

DUMFRIES, Dec. 5, 1821.

DEAR SIR, . . . And [*the*] time *may* come when I may be of service to you & to y^r *children*.

[*Unsigned.*]

L. & F. Vol. 45.

PETERSBURG, Dec. 13, 1821.

DEAR SIR, . . . And tho' with a miserably sore breast & almost too hoarse to speak, I went out to see the Rich Rob. Bolling¹ who sub^d for the splend. Bible. . . .

The roads are dreadful indeed, from so much rain: but I hope to accomplish it; having sent back my old horse & purchas^d me a capital new one 150\$ to do our business with speed & comfort. God give his benediction on the whole concern! . . .

What have you done with W^m. Penn? I wish you w^d make haste & put him in print & send me a couple of Copies, that I may go over his work & get it into better fix. I am now busy, of nights, preparing for you that chef d'oeuvre of all human writing, that Addison in his Spectator so fervidly eulogizes, viz. "SCOTS CHRISTIAN LIFE."² If ever I get to Elysium I'll look out for that man and will tell him, how great good he did to me in this world. And even now tho' tis, at times, a very dear pleasure to me to think of quitting a world of so many wretched beings, Man & Beast, yet I shou'd feel it one of the greatest troubles to me on a dying bed to go away without seeing you reprint a *moderniz^d* & *popular* copy of that Immortal work. At present it is so incrusted with obsoletisms that, tho a Diamond of the first water, nobody asks after it. . . .

¹ 'Corporate Body . . . Monday the first day of June . . . ' Robert Bolling elected a member of the Corporate Body or Common Hall of Petersburg, and then chosen by that body itself as one of the Aldermen. *Petersburg Intelligencer* (Virginia), June 5, 1812, AAS. — He had been one of the proposers for building a Reservoir at the Town Spring, Petersburg. *Ibid.*, Feb. 14, 1806, AAS. — He was one of three Commissioners 'for the purpose of contracting for a Tavern or Hotel, to be erected on part of Lot,

No. 46, Bollingbrook Street . . . ' *Ibid.*, May 22, 1810 *et seq.*, AAS.

² *The Christian Life, from its beginning, to its consummation in Glory; together with The several Means and Instruments of Christianity conducing thereto.* . . . By John Scott, D.D. Rector of St. Giles's . . . In Five Volumes, London 1757. BA. I have never found that Weems succeeded in his plan for reprinting this work.

1821]

LETTERS

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 45.

MURFREESBORO [*postmarked Dec. 29, 1821.*]

DEAR SIR, . . . As the Rev^d Mr. Southall ¹ is Wealthy & Honest & the stand good, I w^d advise you, by *all* means to make him a good Assortment.

Direct to John W. Southall & Co.

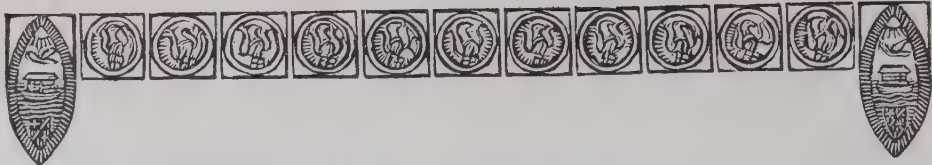
Murfreesboro.

Care of Waring & Kimberly, Commission Merch^{ts}. New York.

If sent in this way the Books will come immediately to this place.

¹ John W. Southall, born in Murfreesboro, N. C., 1797, and lived there until his death in 1873; a great Methodist and helped very much in building up the Wesleyan Female College of his town; served as a county magistrate prior

to the Civil War. See *The Colonial and State Political History of Hertford County, N. C.*, Benjamin B. Winborne, Murfreesboro, N. C., 1906, p. 116, LC.



He met you as if you had knocked and he had bidden you enter.—
HENRY JAMES.

L. & F. Vol. 48.

RALEIGH Jan. 5. 1822.

DEAR SIR, With infinite danger I got here last night after a 40 miles ride in all that Tornado of Snow & the frowning Elements. God almighty be prais^d for his preserv^g mercies both now & to come!!!

The Box with Atlases at 275\$ I distributed to my Sub^s. & now, with a *trembling* heart, on a/c of Robbers, commit to the mail. I set out in 2 hours for Chapel Hill to meet the box sent thither. . . .

Dont forget M^{rs}. W. send her only 60\$ each month.

[To HENRY C. CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 48.

HILLSBORO. Jan. 7. 1822

DEAR SIR — . . . The frequency of robbing the mails¹ almost breaks my heart with trouble lest you sh^d lose the *money* I send you. Why does not y^r father make a stir among the great men of the Post Office, to make the STAGES carry the mails from Fredericksb^g to Alexand^a. & from Balt^o. to Philad^a. (and not to the Eternal Disgrace of the Country, trust them to those vile carts which only serve to throw the hard earnings of the Laborious & Honest into the hands of Thieves & Harlots). . . .

L. & F. Vol. 48.

[*N.d. received Jan. 10, 1822.*]

DEAR SIR. . . . I know you will not forget my Widow & children. As the Country is full of Bibles, my hope of success in this *costly* edition rests much upon the effect of the *prints*. Please set one of your BEST artists on the "*Mother of Moses*[""] turning her back on that sweet infant

¹ 'The Post Office! Jacob Coble and Michael Coble, jr. of Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, were on Wednesday, convicted in the Circuit Court of the United States . . . of stealing and smuggling from the mail a letter

containing money . . . James Coates, late post master at Norristown, was indicted in the same court for stealing and embezzling from the mail sundry letters containing bank notes.' *Free Press* (Lancaster, Pa.), Nov. 2, 1820, HSDC.

as he sleeps near the Crocodiles of the Nile! and send me 6 or 8 copies. Also beg Mr. Heath¹ to look at the Holy Mother & Son in the "*Angel warning to flee into Egypt*" and try if he cant make their blessed faces a little more *soft & delicate*, & send me 6 or 8. These are not *small matters*, but will greatly aid me when expatiating on the Beauties of this Bible in presence of the Great People of this Country.

I deeply regret that you did not put "*the Bachelor*" among the rest of the pamphlets which you had bound. *I pray you to do it hereafter*. If you had rather I sh^d go on to Georgia & take Charleston as I come back, let me hear from you soon. I wish you w^d send me a little keg of apples — about 1/2 a bushel. They may preserve health. You have them Dog cheap in Philad^a, but here they are dear as Oranges. It is regretted here that in the Specimen of the Am^a Atlas, you have not given a map of this state or of Virginia or Georgia. The little states of Connecticut, Maine, &c. are rather too remote & unimportant to excite Curiosity in the first degree. Is there any prospect of meeting the Public wish, with one or two Maps of the large Southern States? Please run over this letter and give a reply *in detail*. As to the little ad Captand. boxes for Richmond, I counted that they w^d have met me there and that I sh^d have been able to dispatch them to their proper places. But as it is I must get my Son in law James Heath the Auditor, a very obliging young man to attend to it, which he will do with *fidelity*. If in consequence of the early making of the Ice they are not yet sent off, you may send only ten, — But let me know very particularly what you have done or mean to do.

Yours, respectfully,

[TO MATHEW CAREY²]

L. & F. Vol. 48.

CAMDEN Jany 19. [18]22

DEAR SIR, . . . I trust that Henry will remember his promises to me about M^{rs}. Weems, and her family.

¹ 'New York May 15th. 1818 At sight, please to pay Mr. Tho^s. Heath or order, Forty dollars, which will be in full for work done for you Alex^r. Anderson Mess^{rs}. Mathew Carey & Son Philadelphia.' *Mathew Carey Account Books*, Vol. 31:5128, AAS.

² The letters to Weems from the new firm which included Henry C. Carey and Isaac Lea commence Jan. 18, 1822.

. . . I mean to go to Columbia tomorrow or next day, thence to Charleston, and if you have not sent on any other person to start the game, I shall spend all Feb^y there unless you countermand. Write soon. Let me know *what boxes* you have sent & where &c. &c. How goes on the printing of W^m Penn? Dont stereotype Marion yet.¹

I think you might find it y^r interest to get me, as I said some *Specimens* of the SPLENDID BIBLE, with a subⁿ paper in *each*. I have some Great friends in this country.

[TO HENRY C. CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 48.

COLUMBIA [received Feb. 4] 1822

DEAR SIR. . . Had you not better send me another subⁿ book, with some fancy names on the front lid in Gold Letters, say

Martha Washington
Gift of her Father James Dandridge.

George Washington
gift of his Mother.

I intreat you not to stereotype Marion yet. I have two brilliant anecdotes for it.

I entreat you not to forget M^{rs}. Weems, but send her punctually 70 Dolls. & no more every month.

[M. L. W.]

‘DON’T LET THE SPARK GO OUT.

MR. WILLINGTON — Glancing an eye over one of your late papers, I accidentally popt on a paragraph, which afforded me so much pleasure that I cannot forbear this second pleasure of giving you at least the echo of it. The writer of the paragraph, to which I owe this very agreeable emotion, had, it seems, been reading of the late dismal conflagration of the Orphan House in Philadelphia, whereby one hundred motherless babes, from the soft warm bosom of public charity, were suddenly driven out into the bitter cold, to mingle their trembling cries with the wintry blast, as they tottered along with naked feet on the icy pavement!

¹ The first stereotyped edition that I have found is dated 1826 (*Bibliography, title 96*).

To relieve these suffering innocents, he suggests a supply, as singular as it is amiable. He reminds us of an extraordinary young Cicero, in the Orphan House of this town, who lately tried his Lilliputian eloquence, with happy effect, on the chords of public feeling. He proposes, that the same graceful little orator should come forward again; and, with all the sweet enchantment of his tender cheeks, and silver tongue, call forth our ready contributions, bathed with the sympathetic tear. He then advises, that this holy offering should be sent on to Philadelphia with this beautiful inscription: — “From the Orphans of Charleston to the Orphans of Philadelphia.”

O beautiful inscription indeed! — I hope, Mr. Willington, that we shall all say that it is beautiful. It is one of those beauties, sir, that will last forever. The ornaments of poor human pride, however dazzling, must presently fade away; yea, and the beauteous forms that wear them, if unembalmed with virtue, shall soon be covered with shame and everlasting contempt. But, sir, while the beauties of a thousand dollar Cashmere shawl or carpet shall be turned into dust — yes, and when all the glory of the “hundred thousand livre cradle” which Parisian vanity offered to the young Napoleon, shall lie in ruins, — this offering of love, consecrated by the spirit of Christ, shall shine with interminable lustre. It will be laid up, sir, among the regalia of Heaven, as a precious gem, chrystallized out of the tears of infants’ friendship, and angels, with eyes of immortal joy, will hail it as a welcome presage of the approaching millennium.

There is one improvement, Mr. Willington, that I would make of this affair, and be done. If, sir, a train of feelings and consequences so delightful can spring from an accidental glance of the eye on a line or two in a newspaper, how important it is to themselves, how important to their friends, and to their country, that the young Ladies and Gentlemen of this City, with their advantages of youth, beauty and fortune, should be tempted more frequently to look into the book of God himself! — Well, sir, with this view I am now endeavoring, with the aid of their own enlightened and pious friends, to print a splendid edition of the Bible, after the celebrated Westal’s British Bible;¹ and which, though but half the price of that work, is already honored with the following high commendation:

“We hesitate not to say of this Bible that it is superior in elegance and beauty, to any that we have seen in the United States. And, while we rejoice to see the Fine Arts lending their aid to exhibit the best of all books in a style that may happily invite the young to a more frequent perusal of its heavenly contents, we heartily wish Mr. Weems great

¹ See note to letter following.

success in this undertaking, especially as he offers it on terms comparatively so cheap; and also intends to appropriate a part of the profits to the religious education of our own poor.

N. Bowen,	A. Gibbes.
C. Hanckel	B. M. Palmer.
F. Dalcho.	J. Bachman.
R. Furman.	S. Gilman.
C. E. Gadsden.	A. Buist.
J. Galluchat.	A. Boies."

The citizens of Charleston will please be informed that from my profits on Lavoisne's Atlas, though furnished to subscribers at about one half the price of the London edition, and about one-third that of the French, I gave last summer forty-five dollars to the sabbath schools of this town. From my profits on this elegant Bible, though comparatively so cheap, and also of my two Atlases, I intend a portion for the same object. This is not mentioned altogether from ostentation, which I well know, whatever eclat it might bring me in this world, will do me but little good in the next; but I do it for the sake of a hint to others, which will please them if benevolent, and at the same time profit the public.

Charleston is annually visited by a number of literary adventurers, soliciting subscriptions for books, — Now, if these gentlemen would each make a donation to the sabbath schools, it would relieve the citizens from a heavy tax in this way, and leave them at liberty to apply their resources to some other beneficent object — such, perhaps, as introducing into the town the sweet and pellucid waters of the neighboring springs; thereby cleansing the streets, purifying the air, and rendering Charleston, as Heaven designed it, the Montpelier of the United States.

M. L. WEEMS.'

Charleston Courier, Feb. 14, 1822, CLS.

[To HENRY C. CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 48.

CHARLESTON Feb^y. 19, [18]22.

DEAR SIR. The town is chockful of Bibles — Westall's Bibles from London ¹ — Collins's Ditto from New-York — some fair sales — some, whipping the Devil round the stump by *raffles* — But by launching a number of Congress rockets, I have, thank God, put some of the Citizens into the humour to subscribe. All good as Ben Burton.

¹ With engravings from designs by Richard Westall, R.A. The NYPL. has a London 1815 edition.

1st. I wrote to you that under the impression that it w^d be an additional & powerful inducement to many to subscribe, for the sake of seeing their own, or the name of a Beloved Wife or child in gold letters on the lid, I had promis^d that gratification, & wish^d to know your mind. I sh^d be glad to hear from you on that.

2^d. I shou^d like to hear about W^m. Penn.

3^d. Also whether Doct^r Ewell has done anything about paying the 100 copies Med. Comp. according to his note which you have.

4. Sometimes a Mechanic & others w^d subscribe for a Bible at 30 Doll^{rs} if I w^d take it out in clothes or services, who w^d not subscribe on other terms. Can you in such a case or cases, *very few indeed*, say not above 6 in the whole year, make them to me at 25 or 33 1/3, I paying the cash to you or [*Berret?*] & keep^s the history of that case in a book?

5. As I am now a great way from home what think you of my spending all the summer & Fall in this country and in the western parts of S. Ca. & Georgia? . . .

8th. Wou^d it not be very well to give me, in a very large Show Bill, something to let the million see what books I am getting subscribers for — as. “M. L. W. BEGS LEAVE to Inform the Public that he is now receiv^g Sub^s for the following valuable works — viz.

1st. A splendid Family Bible

2. Lavoisne's Atlas. 3^d ed.

3. An Am. Atlas, on the plan of Lavoisne.

4th. — Vesey Jun^r. Chancery [”]

5. — Opposite to these you coud place the name

6. — of some Popular works — if *you know any such* —

7 — that the people w^d be apt to jump at, so as to give

8 — me no trouble nor loss of time.

[M. L. W.]

‘TO THE EDITOR.

I don't know anything, Mr. Willington, that can give more pleasure to the patriot and Philanthropist, than to see that glorious change in public manners, now so rapidly progressing among us. Formerly, sir, beauty and gold were the great idols of the nation; and that they are still too much so for a people pretending to be christians, must be ac-

knowledge, and the greater the pity. But still there is comfort in recollecting that the homage paid to these false gods, now-a-days, is a mere bagatelle to what it was formerly. — Why, sir, when I first “wrote myself man,” which was near half a century ago¹ any handsome young stranger, with a dashing equipage, no matter how dark he was in the upper story, could yet easily enough fill the town with his name, and set the hundreds of the finest caps on the spring for him. And just so with the other sex. A girl, for example though illiterate as her own waiting maid, yet if she had but a pair of fine sparkling eyes, with a stout rice swamp on the record, and a caravan of Mandingoes to hold up her train, might fairly sail into a ball room, and kill as many beaux as she pleased. But, thank God, sir, and for the honor of my sex I do say it again with true devotion, thank God, the young men, generally speaking, are out of the reach of such small shot as that. The truth is, Mr. Willington, the young men are now getting to read and to think, and to look for pleasure, where alone it is to be found, i.e. in the mind. Boys, as it were, with the tender down hardly yet formed on their ruddy cheeks, are now shining at the bar, figuring in the newspapers, thundering their 4th of July orations, and even drawing crowded houses around them in the pulpit. Young men of this high character, sir, must have something in a wife beyond shawls and bonnets. They must have *mind*, sir; and that mind stored with knowledge and virtue, rendering the wife at once the helpmate and the charmer of her husband, covering his life over with blossoms of pleasure, and still every day ripening into the fruits of an EVERLASTING FRIENDSHIP. It belongs to education to do all this. Thank heaven, enlightened parents are sensible of it. Hence, Female Academies are springing up everywhere; and, both in town and country, sweetfaced maidens are seen, in sprightly troops, hastening to those sacred seats of science and virtue. “Hail, Columbia, happy land!” whose virgin beauties are thus turning the chief of their cares, from “their faces, to their minds.” Such wisdom, sir, if persevered in, will branch out into blessings beyond the reach of the politician to calculate. Smitten with the divine charms of what the Apostle calls “the precious inward adornings of the mind,” they will, comparatively, despise the vain, tho’ costly ornaments of the body. Expenses will of course be greatly diminished — families will become much more easy in their circumstances; parents will love their children for not teasing them into ruinous expenses; creditors will esteem their debtors for punctually paying them; in short, a general and hearty friendship will prevail among the citizens, from their more general performance of the great duties of justice and humanity to one another — and all this golden

¹ Born in 1759, which made him at this time over 60 years of age.

age of things is fairly to be expected, under God, from the present happily increasing attention to education. The following letter cannot fail to aid the good cause.

M. L. WEEMS.

"To the Rev. M. L. Weems.

DEAR SIR, After so many distinguished scholars, both in Europe and America, have expressed their approbation, and even admiration of Lavoisne's Atlas, it may seem superfluous, and even presumptuous, in us, to add to theirs our feeble testimony to its merits. But, since you have been pleased to request an expression of our opinion of that celebrated work, we feel ourselves constrained to say that, as a book both for the learned and the unlearned — to teach the one, without loss of time, the principal outlines of universal history and geography; and to assist the other to a prompt recollection of important events, which they may have forgotten, this work of Lavoisne's is in our opinion; one of the most happy of all human inventions. In expressing ourselves thus to you, we mean respectfully to convey the wish, that many more than have yet done so, may be persuaded to possess themselves of this inestimable work.

The 'American Atlas,' upon the same admirable plan for prompt and easy instruction in the history of North and South America, and especially of all the states and territories in the union, with their several possessions, foreign wars, famous battles, illustrious men, remarkable events etc. from the first discovery of our country to the present day, appears to us, from the specimen of the work which you have exhibited to us, calculated to be a most acceptable and valuable supplement to Lavoisne's; and we heartily wish success to your laudable endeavors to circulate it.

We are, dear sir, with great respect, yours, etc.,

N. BOWEN.

T. FORD.

ELIAS HORRY.

J. MAIR.

W. WASHINGTON."

Charleston Courier, Feb. 21, 1822, CLS.

[TO HENRY C. CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 48.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 28. [18]22

DEAR SIR, I have been in S. Carolina, exactly 6 weeks, during which time, tho' horribly deform^d [?] with rains & roads, I have, immortal

thanks to Heaven for it! receiv^d sub^s to amount to 2.800. Besides paying Barret about 400. Being told by my friends here, for I always require advice, that *June* will do much better for me here — and also recollecting that I have a good many boxes in Savanna, I mean God willing to set out immediately for that place via Beaufort — and push off the boxes to the upper Country where the Courts are now commencing their Sessions. . . .

I am frequently, even daily receiv^e thanks from the Bishop & Clergy of all Churches as well as from Patriots & Philanthropists of all Professions & Ranks, for our Moral Looking Glasses. Woud it not be well, as y^r father once hinted, to take some of the *best* of these Recommendations, & printing them in a 1/4 sheet, place them in the Pamphlets a sheet to each? But I dont like the present assortment. The World beginning now to talk of us as the Friends of Youth, will not be so well pleas^d to see light song books &c &c in our vice-extinguishing Collections. Nor do I approbate large collections. I think little boxes of about 80 Dolls will be enough.

be enough.		48		
10	Washington.....	10	3 Weems' pamph ^{ts} . 1.75	5.25
10	Franklin	10	2 Bibles @ 500	10
10	Marion.....	10	12 Spelling	3
12	Drunkards.....	3	24 Primers C'h	1.50
12	Gamblers	3	12 pretty Chaps — 20	2.40
12	Adulterers	3	2 Geographies	2.
12	Duellests	3	2 Arithmetics	1.75
12	Bachelors.....	3	2 Murrays Reader	1.50
12	Drown ^d Wife ¹ ...	<u>3</u>	3 Walkers Dict' ²	3.
		48	1. History of Eng ^d .	
			1 Greece — 1 Boone ³	3.
			3 Testaments	<u>1.12 1/2</u>
				82.52 1/2

¹ *God's Revenge against Murder.*

² *Ad.* 'Just published, and for sale at this office [S. Pleasants', Jr.] Walker's Dictionary; a critical Pronouncing Dictionary and Expository of the English language, in which not only the meaning of every word is clearly explained, and the sound of every syllable distinctly shewn, but where words are subject to different

pronunciations, the authorities of our best pronouncing dictionaries are fully exhibited, the reason for each are at large displayed and the preferable pronunciation is pointed out. July 14.' *Virginia Argus* (Richmond), July 27, 1803, AAS.

³ Perhaps John Filson's *Adventures of Colonel Daniel Boone*, LC.

You wish I w^d inform you, *precisely, what I mean doing*. Why, as to that, I will do what you desire — and will do what I can with both Atlases. But while I suppose that but little can be done with the Gen^l Lavoisne, the whole State having been already explored, I fear that no great success will attend the Amⁿ. Lavoisne. I advertised the thing in the papers, both at full length & in detail, & yet, altho back^d by the Bishop & other Literary Worthies, to my utter astonishment the richest men here & my admirers too who, in plentiful years past, w^d, I verily believe, have subscrib^d for several copies, woud not touch!! altho they possess^d the Gen^l Lavoisne. But I *will* make a trial. But if you cou'd let me give my chief attention to the Bible, I really think considering the universal respect paid to that Book, I shoud be able to do good things for you. Consider how every sub^r, *tells*, when the book is so *Heavy* as thirty dollars. I guess thus favorably of the Bible because in 6 or 7 weeks even here on the footsteps of Collins &^c. &^c. I have gotten 80 Sub^s. But in urging the splendid Bible I do not mean to forget the Atlases altogether. I wanted to run them together; i.e. when unsuccessful with the Bible, *because of a half a dozen in the family already*, I meant to propose the Atlases. Unless call^d back to Virginia, to see the unsold books return^d to you, — I mean of the old concern — I shou'd like if I cou'd possibly get M^{rs}. Weem's consent, to stay in these Southern states, untill I had [*done*] nearly all that cou'd be done with the splendid Bible & the Atlases. With your overwhelming weight with Doct^r Jas Ewell why will you not settle for that note for 100 Med. Comp^s.?

L. & F. Vol. 48.

CHARLESTON, Mar. 2. 1822

D^r. SIR My best friends here, I mean the wealthy Planters, (subscribers) say that if you *cou'd take a little from the thickness of the paper & add it to the whiten^o of the same your edition w^d beat Westall all hollow*. I pray you think of that. I have told you 2 or 3 or 4 times that knowing the exceeding incitement to action furnished by Vanity (perhaps of the *laudable sort*) I have promis^d on y^r a/c to give the sub^s. the pleasure to see their names on the front lid in gold capitals. I thought that the addition thereby made to the subⁿ. paper, w^d warrant this promise. But I *cant* hear from you on the subject.

. . . What are you going to do with Penn? It will sell — but you won't say anything about it. Nor will you do anything to keep me from being robb^d by Doctor Ewell . . .

L. & F. Vol. 48.

COOSAWHATICHE — Mar. 11 [1822.]

Dr. SIR. The smiles of Heaven are with me still — I reach^d Beaufort (27.m distant in the rear) Wednesday night last and next morning commenc^d my operations, thus. . . . [*Here follow subscribers' names with the total sum of 920 dollars.*] So you see how I have great cause to be thankful for so much in 4 days. . . . I have been told that almost every body In Georgia has it [*Lavoisne*] And the subⁿ for the American Lavoisne is so far less than that for the splendid Bible that it seems like losing time to attend to it. For if I had [*with*] me but a little, light Sulky with delicate tall wheels & no portorage beyond a small portmanteau, I might do great things for the Bible. But God's will be done. If we cant get the Fair & Flush now in their *teens* to read the Bible & imbibe the spirit of Christian, i.e. *Republican* Simplicity, frugality, Honesty, Industry, & all such virtues that make men love one another we shall soon be a divided & a Ruined People. . . . I have often written to you to use y^r weight & influence with Dr. James Ewell to obtain the Copies (100) or say only (75) for which he gave his note *which you now possess*. But you won't do anything in it. And yet, from his calculations on y^r future patronage, he w^d do more for you than for me, who actually was the honor^d Instrument of writing his Medical Companion, & thereby have supported him & his family the last 12 years. . . . Great complaints are made of the carelessness of the American Binders, that while the English books will bear to be knock^d about 3 or 4 years unhurt the American books will start from the stitching to crumble to pieces in one or two years. I have seen this & heard it horribly complain^d of in your Bibles. I pray you to consider the dismal effect this will have upon y^r success in life. The cursed passion for show & consequently for money, makes even the book stitchers slur their work in this scandalous way. I wish you w^d lay these things to *heart* & talk to them . . . Don't forget the 50 sets of Duellists pictures (3 of each kind) to be sent to Barrett. . . .

When shall we get PENN? Dont stereotype Marion till I write you one or two fine anecdotes. Judge James's Life of Marion¹ is come out. The world say it is a poor thing. But — I am still y^{rs}

L. & F. Vol. 48.

SAVANNAH Mar. 14 1822

DEAR SIR — . . . I recieved^d, yesterday, a very flattering letter on Penn, from Doct^r. Abercrombie.² If you cou'd think of some person in Philad^a, perhaps such an one as Doct^r Griffith,³ who wou'd give us an ad captandum *critique* commendatory of it — and have this printed & sent with the Books, it w^d be well. In that case, and especially if the critique, like an aurora borealis, threw up some fine streaks of light pointing towards that high Zenith of fame where Montesquieu & Burke & Voltaire & so on, have placed W^m Penn, among the First Founders & Legislators of this Country, you might send 25 to Cotton, Richmond, & the same number to Swan ⁴ Petersburg, & the same to Gray, Fredericks-

¹ *A Sketch of the Life of Brig. Gen. Francis Marion, and A History of his Brigade, . . . with Descriptions of Characters and Scenes, not heretofore published. Containing also, An Appendix, with copies of letters which passed between Several of the Leading Characters of that day, Principally From Gen. Greene to Gen. Marion. By William Dobein James, A.M. [then one of the Associate Judges in Equity, South Carolina] . . . Charleston, S. C. . . . 1821. 1c.*

² 'I have just got the life of William Penn, by M. L. Weems, and have perused it with that high degree of satisfaction which I have always experienced from his publications. . . . The life of such a man could hardly have been so written as not to excite an interest; but from the pen of Mr. Weems, it has come forth with an effect entertaining and interesting in a high degree. Indeed, so fully has he entered into the spirit of his hero . . . that those who do not know the author would suppose him to be a Quaker of the first class, instead of an orthodox Episcopal Clergyman. But still the native gaiety of his genius, and his extraordinary

talent for enlivening his pages, and refreshing his reader, shines out, at proper intervals, in streams of humor of the most genuine and fascinating lustre. . . . there is a peculiar vein of wit and raciness, and an originality of thought, in his writings, which are seldom to be met with, and which never fail to seize the hearts of his readers, especially the young, with sentiments the most friendly to Virtue and Happiness. James Abercrombie. Philadelphia, Feb. 25, 1822.' This letter was used in advertising the *Life of Penn* in the *Charleston Courier*, Apr. 11, 1822, cLS. (See *Bibliography*, title 148.)

³ Perhaps Elijah Griffiths, M.D., whose name was printed as one of the Subscribers to Mease's *Picture of Philadelphia*.

⁴ *Ad.* 'Paper Warehouse. Joseph C. Swan . . . begs leave to inform . . . that he has associated with his Book and Stationary store, A Paper Warehouse, which will enable him to sell at the New-York Mill prices . . . Book Binding, in all its various branches neatly executed . . . ' *Petersburg Republican* (Virginia), Aug. 30, 1822, AAS.

burg. If Edward Stabler, Alexandria, and Gerard Hopkins ¹ Baltimore (who are wealthy & Worthy Quakers) shou'd order any little boxes, *send them without fear.*

Tell the Rev^d Mr. Abercrombie that I got his letter — & that I wish he w^d give you a Critique on PENN — in short, I sh^d be glad [*if*] the world were all Penns. There w^d be no more Wars nor Cruelties among mankind.

'TO THE REV. MR. WEEMS DEAR SIR — As Trustees of the Church of all Denominations, permit us to return you our sincere thanks, while we acknowledge from your hands, the receipt of a splendid Bible for the use of that Church.

The pious devotion of your mind should speak volumes to the heart, knowing as we do, your sole object to be the diffusion of divine knowledge.

May the Lord prosper you in the noble and glorious undertaking thou hast espoused, and though the hoary locks speak a rapid advancement to the grave, yet may he in his infinite mercy be pleased to smile upon, and continue thee long, long among his people, for the advancement and extension of that light, essential to man's eternal happiness.

Christian F. Hunks. Thomas G. Davis.'

Republican (Savannah), Mar. 18, 1822, UN[']GA.

[*M. L. W.*]

'COMMUNICATED.

A CARD

To the Trustees of the Church of All Denominations, Cherokee bill.

GENTLEMEN:—As creditors generally have good memories, it is probable you have not forgotten that I am a little in your debt. About nine months ago I was present at your laying [*of*] the *corner stone* of a church, which you were about to build on the principles of a perfect toleration; whether you meant it as a good hint to bad Christians, or not, is best known to yourselves. A great concourse, however, attended the novel solemnity, and charmed with a plan so congenial to the spirit of our religion and government, the Honorable JUDGE CHARLTON pronounced a handsome oration on the spot. A preacher, from the neighbourhood, followed the judge, and I followed the preacher. Hap-

¹ 'Hopkins, Gerard T. grocer, SW corner of Pratt & Light st whf. dw. 78 Pratt' *Baltimore Directory*, 1822, LC.

pening to think, while I was advising others to aid your pious undertaking, that I also ought to do something towards it, I set my name down for a large Bible, a present to your church. You will please now be informed that the Bible is ready for you, at the Book store of the Messrs. Schenk's, who will deliver it on application or order.

After this small favor from me, I have now to beg one of you, viz. That whenever you put this Bible into the hand of a travelling preacher, you will beg him to take his text but from Christ. I have a great veneration for the prophets and apostles, but a far greater for him. And although it is possible for a man to preach from the former, without attempting to warp the liberal feelings of your church, yet there is some danger; but from Christ, none. He was no sectarian, no preacher of discordant notions, but of *heart-uniting loves*. A man who is fixed for life in a parish may, perhaps, be *pitied* if he should *once* in that life, so far forget his respect for Christ as to set one of his own servants above him. But surely an Itinerant Levite who may never speak before you but one time, need not so abuse that and insult your feelings, by offering such an indignity to him "*who spake as man never spake.*"

Oh this pulling down Christ and putting up Paul and Peter, has kindled "*the fire of hell*" in the Christian Church. It has set Catholics to cut the throats of Protestants, and even Protestants to butcher one another!! Yes, and it may enable your travelling preacher, especially if he be an ingenious and eloquent sectarian, to break up all your present harmony, by setting you to wrangle about the beggarly tenets of Calvin or Arminius, when he should be rousing you to a far nobler strife, such as who among you should best approve themselves the *disciples of Christ* by *loving one another*; who among you should have sons that make the amplest crops, and daughters that spin the handsomest raiment; who should have servants the best fed and clothed, and domestic animals the fattest and finest; and thus in all respects, presenting the fairest spectacle of plenty and joy, of love and happiness, which Christ, most of all, delights in.

Yours, respectfully,

M. L. WEEMS,

N. B. If your pulpit be not engaged on Sunday next, I shall be willing to come up and give you a discourse.'

Georgian (Savannah), Mar. 21, 1822, GAHS. Which was followed by:

'The Savannah Sabbath School Teachers' Society present their grateful acknowledgments to the Rev. M. L. Weems, for his donation of eighteen dollars to aid the operations of the School,

and use this means of expressing their sense of obligation for his kind liberality.'

Georgian, Mar. 22, 1822, GAHS.

[To M. CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 48.

SAVANNAH, Mar. 23, 1822.

Dr SIR, . . . [*A list of 600 dollars subscribed for.*] Well Thank God, for this . . . in Savannah. Oh the town is quite alter^d. *Extravagance*, *Extravagance*, & the dull sale of cotton, have knock^d up all *Spirit* as (of course) well as all cash. If one Mr. Carey w^d write an ad captandum pamph^t. against Pride and Extravagance he w^d do even more good than by his OLIVE BRANCH. If M^{rs}. Weems will but consent, I will assuredly spend the whole summer & autumn &c here till June 12 month. But I fear she will cry much if I only hint it to her. I shall suffer too — but, thank God, I have not long to labour & suffer now. A man at 63 must soon hear the Boatswains call thank God I am not afraid. — I wish M. Carey w^d draw up a critique on Penn and have it printed in large letters & some of them on paste board & sent around with the box containing the Books. 80 apiece of the pamph^{ts}. 20 each of the Biographies & 6 or 8 show bills, & let this box be *shipp^d at once* to me, at Savannah . . . In 3 days I go to a Court at Darien — shall come back, God willing [*and*] go to the Sea islands among the *rich planters*, thence go up the country, &c, &c, &c.

Dont you see I've got, already 130 sub^s for the Bible?

[To HENRY C. CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 48.

SAVANNAH, Apr. 10, 1822.

. . . The heat relaxes the fibres prodigiously. If I get thro the Summer with life, I shall be right thankful. I trust you do not forget M^{rs}. Weems, in my long absences.

I wrote to you to send me about 100 of each of the pamphlets & 12 of each of the 4 Biographies — to Schenk ¹ of this place. If you have

¹ *Ad.* ' . . . popular little tracts on Gambling . . . with J. R. Schenck, bookseller . . . ' *Charleston Courier*, Feb. 16, 1822, CLS.

not yet sent them, send on *at once* to care of W^m. T. Williams,¹ Book-seller, Savannah.

I have thoughts of spending the whole season in this Country & especially if you will let Jesse come out to deliver the *Bibles*. *I'll see that he shall go strait.*

L. & F. Vol. 48.

SAVANNAH. Ap. 16, 1822.

D^r SIR — 4 days ago I set out as I then told you, to make a descent on the wealthy Islanders of Hiltonhead, Edisto & St. Helena. But those day & night tormentors of men & beast, the *sand flies* & *mosquitoes*, drove me back. I got, since my last return of 12 or 1300\$, a *few names*, but shall send them at another time. Attend to the follow^g —

I. I regret you did not give a *fine, mellow* portrait of William Penn, in Tanner's best style, especially as a face of such divine harmony & sweetness w^d of itself, tho silent, speak more eloquently than a 1000 harsh brass toned sermons.

*Pray do it & send on with the next shipm^t, it will help the sales prodigiously.*²

II. You complain of my getting more sub^s for the Bible than for the Atlas. The fact is I generally present both. And the preference is generally given to the *former*, which perhaps ought not grieve as it is 10\$ more.

III. I am very glad that y^r father had so much sagacity as to purchase no more of the Red Morocco Prayerbook^s than he did — they are complain^d of, and with good reason, I think, *as most horribly dear*. How you can suffer such Jews to print Christian prayer books is to me unaccountable.

¹ 'Sept. 14, 1830. William T[*borne*]. Williams is re-elected Mayor.' *Anchored Yesterdays, The Log Book of Savannah's Voyage Across a Georgia Century, In Ten Watches*, by Elfrida De Renne Barrow & Laura Palmer Bell, Savannah, Ga., 1923, p. 128, LC. — One of the first Curators of the Georgia Historical Society organized in 1839. See *Historic and Picturesque Savannah*, Adelaide Wilson, 1889, p. 158, LC.

— Spoken of as 'Col.' in *Historical Record of the City of Savannah*, F. D. Lee and L. J. Agnew, Savannah, 1869, p. 160, LC. — One of the arbitrators, in 1835 or 1836, to prevent a duel. See *Savannah Duels and Duellists, 1733-1877*, Thomas Gamble, Savannah, 1923, p. 199, LC.

² The portrait in his *Penn* was never changed.

- IV. If you could send me a subⁿ [*book?*] for the handsome prayer book you once contemplated to print at 5\$ — I have no doubt I could distribute a great many for you. The Wealth of this Southern Country is in the hands of the Episcopalians & Presbyterians. And every subscriber for the Elegant Bible, — almost — might be counted on, especially of the *former* to take *one*, sometimes many more, even to half dozen of the Prayer-book, while the latter w^d take, i.e. subscribe for the Hymn book. I pray you give attention to this.
- V. Considering the great revival of Religion throughout our Country, w^d it not be adviseable to think of preparing for the popular passion that way, a collection of half a dozen or dozen books of the more noted kind such as Prayer books — Hymnbooks — Hervey's Meditations, elegant edition — Hunters Biography &c. &c. &c. *consult y^r father on that head.*
- VI. Write to me, to Augusta.
- VII. Had you ever a correspondence with Mons^r. Gerardine, Teacher of the College [*at*] Balt^o. about translating y^r Washington into French. Many w^d sell in that dress for scholastic exercises.
- VIII. Perhaps, before you put Dr. Ewell's note in suit you had better expostulate a little more with him — especially if you w^d but remind him — which I think *all important* — what Immortal services you may one day render him if he will but carry *himself strait* with you.
- IX. I know you will not neglect M^{rs}. Weems. . . .
- X. I don't think that there will be any danger in my spending the summer in this country. A man who lives so near to Cornaro & Dr. Franklin has no cause of fear. People die everywhere. And in the other world we shall not see so many unhappy ones as we see here.

L. & F. Vol. 48.

AUGUSTA, Apr. 27, 1822.

. . . NB Mr. Yarbrough is a P. Master.

Adieu. don't forget M^{rs}. W.

Pray send to Augusta, 100 $\frac{1}{2}$ bound Moroco Weems's pamphlets, they sell well.

L. & F. Vol. 48.

MILLIDGVILLE, May 9, 1822

D^r. SIR. . . . At this place I have done something — not much, owing to the scarcity of persons that attend this Bobtail^d kind of Court (Federal) and the extremely debilitating nature of this climate. It seems to be impress^d on my mind that I came to spend the summer here, unless I find letters at Augusta next week, from you or M^{rs}. Weems to forbid; not that I count on doing much in the *subⁿ. way*, for the Courts are all over, but because I hate the idea of going to Dumfries just to turn about again & come back, and also because by going to the watering places in this up country such as the Indian Springs & Buncum, I may get brac^d up by the waters & rest, and get subscriptions from the Concourse & also distribute of our 4 Biographies, & the Moral Looking Glasses, which are greatly sought after particularly the $\frac{1}{2}$ bound. . . .

It appears that I have got upwards of 6000\$ subscrib^d the last 14 or 15 weeks when the Courts set in up here I hope I shall go on bravely, — please God. Send the pamph^{ts} in one box — but the bound & $\frac{1}{2}$ bound in portable boxes.

Have you got any news from D^r. Ewell?

[To M. CAREY & SONS (*sic*)]

L. & F. Vol. 48.

AUGUSTA, May 27, 1822

DEAR GENTLEMEN: Have just receiv^d & read yr letters — think the complaints in them are not altogether of the candid colour they ought to have been. I enter^d South Carolina about the middle of Jan^y and since that time (say $4\frac{1}{2}$ months) I have gotten within a fraction of 200 sub^s for [*the*] Splendid Bible, and 100 for Amⁿ. Atlas — making near 8,000\$ and yet you complain. For my part I do heartily thank God for such good success especially in these *starving times*. But you w^d have prefer^d. them in the *Atlases* rather than the Bibles. But note the Following facts.

I. My course has been — and with Y^r KNOWLEDGE & CONSENT TOO — altogether in the track where LAVOISNE, either by myself or M^r. Fay Savannah, Darien, Augusta, &c. &c. What possible chance had I to get a subⁿ. to Lavoisne in places where I had already gotten almost *every*

individual that was worth anything or *that ought to have such an Atlas* — or where Mr. Fay had push^d so many on *Paupers & Illiterates* that they were hawk'd about at nearly *half price!!*

This circumstance with the overwhelming mass of *Genealogies* has rais^d a prejudice against Lavoisne in this section, and rather than combat it, and *unsuccessfully too*, I thought better to turn my *chief* attention to the Bible. Thus you see that my course has been dictated by an *absolute & most imperious necessity*, and not at all dependent on my own will. . . .

5th. Since writing this I have *re-read* yours of the 29 ult^o. and am above measure *astonish^d & hurt* that you s^d have expected 500 Am & 250 Gen^l Atlas in so short a time & especially in *this country*, where Fay & Pomeroy & Williams & the Dear knows who all, have been *gathering & gleaning* for the last 18 months, and where, as I have frequently heard, Lavoisne may be bought at *half price*, which circumstance with the disappointment of the People who subscrib^d to Nicholson's Encyclopedia & other books, has caus^d numbers to *swear & very hard too* — that they will NEVER SUBSCRIBE TO ANOTHER BOOK AS LONG AS THEY LIVE. So that I say again I do thank God heartily that I have in less than 5 months got near 8,000\$. . .

7. There are several watering places of great character for Health, and much resorted to, in the great valley along which I shall go if I sh^d return to Virg^a. or at which I shall at any rate repose & refresh myself a week or two, & where I may get a good many subscriptions of the wealthy who attend them. In the course of one week *I am told* I might in my amusing way as aforesaid, dispose of 400 Doll^s worth for you; that made me beg in my last that you w^d send me to this place 300 of the Pamphlets $\frac{1}{2}$ bound, I think of going along up that great & *Rich & Healthy* valley, by Buncun & perhaps as afar as Staunton &c. &c.

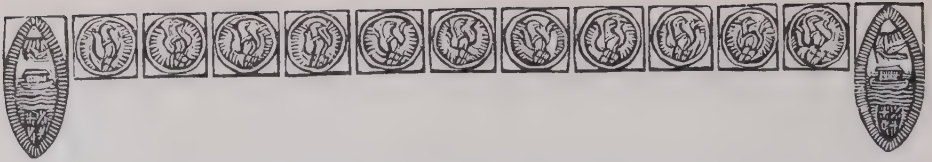
[TO HENRY C. CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 48.

AUGUSTA, May 29, 1822.

DEAR SIR, Yesterday I wrote to you, inclosing a check from this bank on N. York for 369.10, rais^d from vend^s the Biog^s. [and] Moral Looking Glasses, at *lucid* intervals, at 5 little courts here of late. By improving the *tops & bottoms* of times & opportunities a great deal may

be done in the course of the year. I told you tho I don't suppose you will see any necessity for it, that if you w^d allow me an hour or so in the day, to make a short oration to the crowd on the great good they might do their children by sett^g before them the advantages of such virtues as those of Washington &^c &^c. &^c. and the curses of yielding to such base and cowardly vices as Drunkenness, Duelling, &^c. &^c. &^c. I might sell a good deal for you. I also told you that if I spend my summer in this torrid clime it w^d be in cooler shades & watering places of the mountains of the West where the Mammoths of our Race are wont to meet for Health & Pleasure; and where I might add to my list & dispose of many of the Biog. & Moral Look^g Glasses — and added a wish you w^d send 300 $\frac{1}{2}$ b^d in Morocco (*red*) to this place to care of Hobby, I have now to beg you w^d send about 200 of the Drunkard & 150 of *each* of the other varieties (*in pamphlets*) to replace those taken out of the boxes.



La chose que je regrette le plus, dans les détails de ma vie . . . est de n'avoir pas fait des journaux de mes voyages. Jamais je n'ai tant pensé, tant existé, tant vécu, tant été moi, si j'ose ainsi dire, que dans ceux que j'ai faits seuls et à pied. — ROUSSEAU.

[M. L. W. ?]

‘LITERARY

“HE IS THE BEST FRIEND OF A REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT WHO MOST CONTRIBUTES TO THE DIFFUSION OF USEFUL KNOWLEDGE.”

—James Monroe.

We stated, a twelve month ago, that the Rev. Mr. WEEMS was receiving subscriptions for a Grand Atlas, on a new plan, of North and South America, viz. The Canadas, Floridas, West Indies, Mexico, the South American Republics, and especially our own States and Territories; with a Geography, Chronology, and History of their discovery, settlement, wars, battles and remarkable events, to the year 1822. This extensive work is now completed. We possess a copy of it — and after examining its plan and execution, we are prepared to say that it is, in our opinion, an excellent compend of indispensable knowledge, and has the most solid claims to general patronage. The following criticism, from one who was for many years a most successful teacher in this State, and now Principal of the University at Athens, Georgia, meets our ideas exactly.

“After a careful examination of this Atlas, I hesitate not to pronounce it a work of the most profitable amusement to all who wish, in the shortest and pleasantest manner possible, to become acquainted with the history of their own continent and country. . . . As a friend of the young, and of my country, I should be happy to hear that it was a parlour window book in all families.

MOSES WADDEL.”

We are pleased to learn that the first edition is all engaged, and that the Rev. Mr. Weems is now receiving subscriptions for the second.’

[Unsigned.]

Charleston Courier, Feb. 14, 1823, CLS.

[M. L. W.]

'To the Editor of the Courier. DEAR SIR, Please give the following a place in your valuable paper. I don't know how it may *gee* with the learned South Carolina Historians, Geographers and Anecdotists, but I know it *gees* very well with the truth, as the facts were communicated to me a few weeks since, by one of the officers named.

M. L. W.

*A Tale of the Times of Old.*THE DEFEAT OF MAJOR WEYMISS,¹ AT FISH DAM FORD.

"Immortal may their Memory be,
"Who fought and bled for *Liberty*."

'Twas in the days when Lord Rawdon occupied the little village of Columbia, and when Gen. Winne and Col. Middleton, and Capt. Thomas Taylor, with their several corps, under the command of Gen. Sumter, lay on the Broad River, at a place called Fish Dam Ford, waiting for recruits. Early on the 4th day of their encampment, Capt. Taylor repaired to Gen. Sumter and told him of a strong presentiment on his mind that they were to be attacked by the British on the following night. Gen. Sumter treated the admonition with a smile — truth is, if this officer had a weakness, it was but the excess of a physical strength which *never felt fear*. The lion all over, he could not bear anything which smelt of the Fox; and always fond of *fair play* himself, he was slow to suspect others of treachery. Hence, even the British, tho' not much given to compliment rebels, used to call him the "Game Cock," when for poor Marion the "Swamp Fox"; meaning, that while Marion would never show [*himself*] but when he had the advantage, Sumter was always ready to give 'em a fair fight.

Happily, however, the impression on Taylor's mind of an impending attack that night, had in it too much of a call from the invisible world to be anodyned in that way. He returned to his little squad, about 40 in number, whom he thus addressed, "Boys, we have been here now 4 days — the British are, no doubt, informed of it by their friends the Tories — and this night a something on my mind assures me, they will

¹ 'This man [Major Weymies, (*sic*)] was, by birth, a Scotsman; but, in principle and practice, a Mohawk. So totally destitute was he of that amiable sympathy which belongs to his nation, that, in sailing up Winyaw bay, and Waccamaw and Pedee Rivers, he landed, and pillaged and burnt every house he durst ap-

proach! Sush [*sic*] was the style of his entry upon our afflicted state, and such the spirit of his doings throughout! for wherever he went, an unsparing destruction waited upon his footsteps.' *Life of Marion*, 1818, p. 128 (*Bibliography*, title 90).

give us a *burra*. The charge will commence on Gen. Sumter as the first in their way; next they will overwhelm Winne; afterwards they'll scout Middleton; and, last of all, they'll come down like 500 upon us. Now this be our play: Soon as our sentinels give the alarm, let our fires be well replenished with light wood; then, forming our line here, in the edge of this swamp, with well loaded guns in our hands, we will wait their approach; and, when they shall be gathered in crowds around our fires, and laughing at the cowardly rebels, we will give them a spanker that may surprise the surprisers, and put the laugh on the other side of their mouths — and as to you, my brave little fellow," said he, turning to one Nat White, a little Baptist man about 5 feet high, who had come into camp the night before to help to fight without even a stone in his hand, "you may as well go home again, for you can do us no good, as you have no gun."

"Never mind that," replied the little Baptist, "only let us come to fighting and I'll be bound a gun will soon be put into my hands." "Very well," said Taylor, and immediately turned in, he and his men, to put their guns in prime fix, and collect heaps of fat light-wood, to be all in readiness for the British. Well, sure enough, exactly as Taylor had predicted, just about the dark solemn hour of two in the morning, the enemy in great force, Major Weymiss at their head, came dashing up. Spang! Spang! Spang! went the guns of the Sentinels, instantly answered by Col. Middleton, officer of the day, with a voice loud as a trumpet, roaring out, "Parade, parade, the enemy are upon you," and at the same time running in, both he and the sentinels, as hard as they could, the British close at their heels. Raging like a roused lion, Sumter rushed out to form his troops and meet the enemy; but, as Washington said of the British regulars at the slaughter of Braddock, he might as well have attempted to stop the floods of Niagara with his feet. The militia, started from their sleep in the dark, and under circumstances so alarming, behaved as militia when surprised always did and always will behave, i.e. they took to their "scrapers" and made themselves scarce, as Paddy would say; in no time and less. Still Middleton was heard roaring along the camping ground, "Parade! Parade! Parade!" Enraged that he should thus extend the alarm, a stout British Sergeant of Dragoons, named Johnson, mounted on a rapid charger, dashed on ahead of his troops in pursuit of Middleton, and coming up with him hand over hand, close to Taylor's fire, would quickly have cut him down when Taylor said to one of his men whom he knew to be a prime marksman, "Tom, can't you stop that bold soldier?" "I'll try, sir," said the rifle-man, and grasped his firelock, but at the same time heaved a sigh, as sorrowing to kill so brave a foe. But what could he do? That brave foe or Col. Middleton must die. In a moment he had his rifle on the poise;

then, glancing a quick eye along the shining tube untill he had brought the fatal bead to bear, he gave fire. The gallant Johnson, only saw the flash — Heaven, in mercy, threw the sleep of death over all that followed — pierced through the shattered brain, the mighty warrior dropped at once a poor lump of lifeless clay, and, tossed from his horse with all his useless arms, was rolled over almost into one of Taylor's fires. Swift as thought, out from his lurking place ran little Nat White, and snatched up the dead man's carbine and cartouch box, flew back to his comrades with a ["*burra my brave fellows! "Ab ha, Capt. Taylor! didn't I tell you so this morning, that if we got to fighting I should soon have a gun put into my hands?"*"] Presently, just as Taylor had foretold, the British having fairly chased our militiamen across Broad River, to the huge amazement of the mud eels and cats, came swarming around Taylor's fires, thick as wild geese around stacks of rice, and as noisy too; cursing the d—d rebels as a pack of cowardly rascals, and for running off so soon without stopping to give 'em a little bit of fun, In that awful pause, their regimentals shining in the lightwood blaze like a sea of blood; with metal buttons and cross belts bright as day, Taylor gave the word, and his whole platoon poured in a murderous fire, mournfully answered by the cries and groans of the wounded and dying. Only 37 guns [*were*] fired, and yet two and forty of the enemy came down — two of whom, in the language of that day *played possum*. The British returned the fire, but killed only one man. Very little more was done on either side; for the Americans, as if content, like their own generous rattlesnakes, with the deadly wounds they had inflicted on their enemy, retired with sullen joy into their darksome woods; and the British, leaving so many of their dead companions, with a badly wounded General behind them, were glad to trot back to Columbia. The next morning, soon as Captain Taylor and his men had returned to the ground, the British Doctor came in to dress their wounded. He happened to be an Irishman, and as usual a jolly sort of fellow; for as Taylor quizzed him concerning the heavy drubbing which his countrymen (meaning the British) had given him last night, he replied with a mixed laugh and blush, "*Arrah, 'pon my shoul now honey, but the boot was on the wrong leg! Them d—d fellows there out of the black swamp played b—l with us.*" Gen. Sumter too came in, and as Taylor expressed a regret that he had done no better, he replied, with a magnanimity that does him more honor than the most brilliant victory could have done, "O my brave fellow do not talk so; you did wonders. I could not, for my soul, think where such heavy firing came from." On searching the pocket of the brave Sergeant Johnson they found a letter which he had just received from his mother in London. It served to show in what midnight darkness the ministry had contrived to keep the people of England, with respect to

the war in America. In her letter, the fond mother heartily congratulates her "dear son on the *blessed news* which they had just received, viz: that the rebellion in the colonies was all happily extinguished — and that her darling child, now that peace was restored, was no longer exposed to the dangers of war; and how glad she should be if she could but come out to see him, and be with him once more before she died." Ah! happy mother! tho't Captain Taylor, with a deep sigh, as turning from the letter, he beheld poor Johnson, the beloved subject of it, a pale corpse on the sands, and his manly face and locks all matted and ghastly with blood — Ah! happy mother, whose eyes are not permitted to see this sight!

The following curious story was related to me by Gen. William Davie of North-Carolina: — The morning before this fight a stout fellow of a Scotch Irishman, named M'Gregor, who had a son or two with Captain Taylor, came within our lines to see them. Being a hearty old buck, who chewed tobacco and talked big, he was made much of in camp, and everybody must, of course, take a horn with him. He stood fire like a salamander; for in spite of all the brandy that could be knocked into him, he kept his legs till about sunset, when he sunk down by one of the fires, into such a powerful sleep, that not all the din of battle aforesaid ever grazed him. Just before day, when the wolves, nosing the sweet odor of human blood, began to howl, and the air became chilly, the two English soldiers who had *played 'possum*, agreed to creep up to the fire and take a warm. The bodies of the slain lay very thick; mistaking old M'Gregor for one of the dead, and much in their way, they fastened upon him by the head and heels, and began to drag him on one side, "Hallo! hallo there! What the d—l are you arter?" roared old M'Gregor, loud as a French horn. The Englishmen, struck as by a sudden scream from the tomb let him drop with such a jolt of his head on the stones, as made him curse like a Turk. "God bless your honor," cried the Englishmen, "we didn't mean to hurt you, sir." "You didn't mean to hurt me! What the d—l did you mean! Dragging a man, in his sleep, over the stones at this rate?"

"'Pon honor, sir, we thought you were dead."

"*Dead!*" cried he, "*dead!* why what the d—l put that into your head?"

"Why, God bless your honor, don't you see that everybody hereabouts is dead?"

This put old M'Gregor's eye upon the stretch; instantly his hair rose like bristles upon his head; his eye-balls staring forward in horror — this moment in a camp full of young people, laughing and drinking and now in worse than a grave yard! He starts from a dead man at his feet; he trips against a second; stumbles on the third; rolls over the fourth;

up to the wrists and elbows in puddles of blood. "Mercy on my soul!" cried he scrambling up "What's all this?" "Why, God bless your honor," replied the Englishmen, "did you hear what a h—l of a fight we had here just now?"

"Fight! who betwixt?"

"Betwixt the Americans and us."

"Why, who are you?"

"We are English deserters."

"Well, where's the English?"

They didn't know.

"Where's the Americans?" They didn't know.

Whereupon, deeply pausing and lifting up his hands, he began a soliloquy in the religious mood. "Oh, my blessed God! Only to think of this! here have the bullets been flying thick like hail; cutting down them poor fellows there like hopper-grass. and I lying here all the time *drunk! dead drunk!* Oh, what if one of them bullets had but taken me; where would my poor soul have been at this minute?" The Englishmen shook their heads and said, "He might, belike have been in a bad box." "In a bad box! yes, in hell!" replied he stamping his foot on the ground; "in hell I should have been, at this precious minute; howling away with the damned." His holy fit, however, did not last him long, for presently, turning to the Englishmen, he called out, "Well, who got the day? Who got the day?" "Oh, the Americans beat us" said they. "Well, thank God, for that," said he, and snatching up a musket and bayonet that lay by one of the dead men, he ordered them to surrender, prisoners of war.

Next morning, when Captain Taylor came in, there was old M'Gregor, with shouldered musket, walking backwards and forwards like a grenadier, keeping guard, as he said, over the prisoners.'

[*Unsigned.*]

Charleston Courier, Mar. 7, 1823, CLS.

Reprinted, with slight changes, in *Augusta Chronicle*, Mar. 13, 1823 [UN^YGA.], with the following introduction:

'Our readers and particularly those in "old Edgefield" will no doubt recognize their old friend, the Rev. M. L. Weems, whose "antibilious pamphlets" have been extensively taken in our country, and we believe, in numerous instances, with salutary effect.'

[*Unsigned.*]

Reprinted in *Delaware Gazette* (Wilmington), without signature or attribution, June 6, 1823, WIL.

[TO MATHEW CAREY]

NYPL.

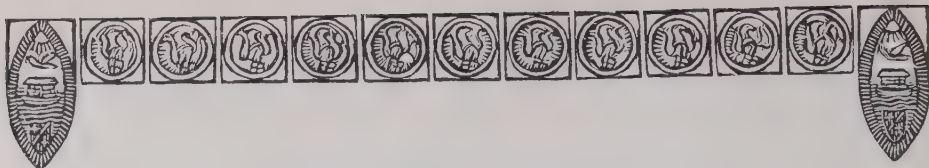
CHARLESTON, Mar. 15, 1823.

DEAR SIR: The bibles not come! — But still I progress in my sub^s. for the Am. Atlas. As to Lavoisne, what with the number I distributed here formerly — and the many copies, thro Mr. Fay's imprudence, sold at almost half price, there is but little to be done with that. M^r. Berrett begs me not to go over to the islands, he thinks the bibles will certainly come today or tomorrow, & he is in great want of the money. I believe I shall follow his advice & stay. I have no better way, and thank God *for that* — to spend my evenings & morning than in writ^g something for the Good of Youth. I sent [*you?*] part of a pamphlet which I shall alter & call it the Bad Wife's Looking Glass, or Gods Revenge against cruelty to the Lords of the Creation.¹ I begg'd you to put it, *instantly* into the hands of some Artist good *at design* who wd give us at once the likeness of a very beautiful woman distorted or convulsed with Diabolical passion, in the act of murdering, with up-lifted axe, her husband in sleep. There is a *poor man* here who has just commenc^d printing it for me in five half sheet for 63 Doll^s. for the 10 pamphlts stitch^d & find the paper. This is some little above the Philad^a price, but I thought you wd prefer [*it?*] to be done here rather than be saddled with the trouble & risks & the Dear knows what other penalties of sending it to Philad^a. You have therefore *only to send on* the 1000 frontispieces, good bold ad captandum caricatures. Y^r Artist can design it *in a day*, engrave & knock it off & have it here in 3 weeks. It is now at press as I said. I wrote to you to send me 50 of the frontispieces to each of the Look^g Glasses. My object is to get these pamph'ts all off by sales before I leave this Country. O if the bibles & Atlases were here! — I begg^d the Atlases (24) to be sent a fortnight ago. Tis true I now have 50 to distribute. But if they had been sent, of the Atlas and Bible too, I might now be doing a great good business distributing. I pray you dont send money by mail to M^{rs}. W. tis dangerous. Send

¹ *The Bad Wife's Looking Glass. Or, God's Revenge against Cruelty to Husbands. Exemplified in the Awful History of the Beautiful, but Depraved Mrs. Rebecca Cotton, who most inhumanly murdered her Husband John Cotton, Esq. for which Horrid Act God permitted her, in the Prime of Life and Bloom of Beauty, to be cut off by her brother Stephen Kannady, May, 5th 1807. With a number of Incidents and Anecdotes, most extraordinary and instructive. By M. L. Weems. Second Edition Improved. Charleston: Printed for the Author. 1823. Price, 25 cents. (Bibliography, title 218.)*

checks on the . . . [torn] or send none. You w^d do me & M^r. Wayne a great favor by getting one of y^r boys to step up & get the 3, 4, and 5th Vol. of his Life of Washington for sub^r here who will pay me at once. You can send [them] in the box of Atlases. . . .

The Bibles that are as "*gifts from fathers* . . . ['] [torn] sh^d. be letter^d on the lid.



No classification fitted him approximately: And strange to say, while I simply listened and looked at him he seemed perfectly clear to me as a person; as soon as I began trying to classify him, he became an exceptionally complex, intricate, and incomprehensible character, in spite of all his candor and simplicity. — CHEKOFF.

[TO HENRY C. CAREY]

NYPL.

SPARTA, GEORGIA Jan. 25 [18]25.

DEAR SIR, 4 weeks ago I wrote you from Milledgville that I had sent you 450\$ to M^r. Tho. Cummings, Augusta. I then set off for Augusta to collect & remit, but it pleas^d God that I sh^d be attack^d on the road with the Gout & Rheumatism which have completely stopp^d all my operations for nearly 5 weeks. In fact I am not positive I shall ever get well. My Dear Henry, 'tis impossible that you can be more grieved, *in reason*, about this apparent affliction than I am. But let us still rejoice in hope that whatever IS IS RIGHT. We have good cause to trust and hope in GOD. Whether you had better wait a little to see what God will please to do — for the Doctor says I shall yet get well, or whether you had better set out some person to wind up is not for me to say, but the former seems advisable. If I should die you have trust *notes* as left with you by me July and August 1823, of all that is due you in N. & S. Ca. & Georgia. As many, *I find*, are so careless that tho written to a 1000 times they will not attend, it might be well to set Jesse out with a coarse little dearborn cart to visit *all the places of deposit of the miscellaneous books in N. and S. Ca. & Georgia* & collect what monies are due and SEE that the ballances are mail^d up & sent on to you.

But as you will probably wait a little to see what the Blessed God may please to do, I shall refer to another mail.

In life or death I am

Yours

My complaint is a strangury brot on still perhaps by imprudently murdering myself by labours above my system when so sadly reduc^d.

NYPL.

SPARTA Jan^y. 28. [1825.]

DEAR SIR. The Doctor tells me I am getting better but I have my doubts. If it sh^d please God to take me to his mercy now, you will desire some person, perhaps Jesse to go around to all the Miscellaneous book stores & get the STATEMENTS, & PROCEEDS of all & see the books pack^d & in waggons for the Sea ports — or you can perhaps fix on some other plan. From some as I stated to you when I was in Philad^a I have reciev^d some monies. You will therefore *in all cases*, desire the Agents to send you the *statements*, for in some cases there may be a little difference between us.

I have now to beg of you & y^r excellent father to extend a kind regard to my poor wife & children. For after all my Labours which you well know have been severe, & my privations many & hard, I still leave my family in low circumstances, & if Mr. Wayne sh^d act oppressively & selfishly, *quite poor*. you will I know agree that you ought to feel a kind feeling towards me. I have been now near 30 years in y^r service & during all that time I have been ready to engage in any enterprize for you to the great danger in many instances (as now) of my health & life & to *long long* absences from a beloved family. And then I have been ready, for a season there was a great press in your business for ready money I have been ready to give up my *part* for your convenience. In the case of Goldsmith's An. Nature, for which I had got 150 subscription^s in Balt^o your father wanting money very badly, I sent him ONE week nearly 1250 Doll^s and went home to a poor young wife with perhaps not 50 dollars in my pocket. Most husbands of young Virg^a wives w^d have been for carrying home in pride & triumph, a splendid show of finery & silk gowns &c. &c. leaving y^r father in the lurch.

Your excellent father owes me much love — for it was I who under God was *two years* interesting him to undertake the Protestant Family Bible & at last prevailed.

Again you owe me much compassion for this reason — viz I implicitly follow^d your plans without acting on any still more prudent & safe for myself. For example, here lately when it was propos^d that I sh^d embark with you in the South for Lavoisne, when we came to see how things stood before I set out, it appear^d that there was a ballance

against me to 2000 Dolls & I gave my note for *such settlement*, whereas in fact that sum was due on account of y^r Books, as Hunters Biography, Davies Sermons, Bibles &c. &c. which I had plac^d in the hands of Gentlemen who had got subscriptions for these Books. You will agree I ought not to have been bound to you for money for books which I had not bought but was [*which were?*] out in the agency of subscriptioneers. I rejoice that these things are in the hands of those who will give them a just consideration. I feel weak, God Almighty bless you.

L. & F.

SPARTA. Feb. 25, 1825 [*received May 10, 1825*].

DEAR SIR, Yours of the 14. is arriv^d. Thank God, both for your sake & mine that I am, apparently, a good deal better — walked out yesterday & the day before $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile & more each day. I'm obliged to you for y^r compliments as to my "*useful life*" &c. &c. But I have done very little — in the right spirit, I mean, from the Love, even a FILIAL LOVE of God & the Divine ambition & joy to be a Co-worker with him in the glorious work of making the world HAPPY. It is a pious custom in y^r church to put up "*prayers for the Sick*." I wish you w^d ask that favor of y^r churches for me at this time. If Jesse was out here he w^d admitting I sh^d be restord to health, be of great service to us in bringing our business here to a speedy close. I pray God to permit me the pleasure to make further communications of my doing better & better in the way to health!! But be it as it may, I feel a comfortable hope that I shall be taken, thro mercy, to a better state, go when I may.

Y^{rs}. Aff.

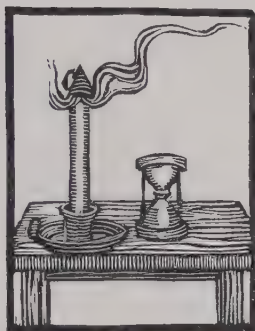
M. L. WEEMS.

“EVERY DAY, EVERY DAY, MY GUIDE SAYS TO ME,
ARE YOU READY?

AND I SAY TO MY GUIDE, I AM READY.

AND MY GUIDE SAYS, MARCH.

AND TO THE END, ONE DAY MORE, I MARCH.
OH, EVERY DAY, EVERY DAY, AM I EVER ON THE
EVER-DIMINISHING WAY, TO THE END, THE END,
THE REST IS SILENCE.”



ABBREVIATIONS OF LIBRARIES AND COLLECTIONS CONSULTED

AAS.	American Antiquarian Society.
APhS.	American Philosophical Society.
AugChronOf.	<i>Augusta Chronicle</i> Office.
BA.	Boston Athenaeum.
BM.	British Museum.
BPL.	Boston Public Library.
CinPL.	Cincinnati Public Library.
CIPL.	Cleveland Public Library.
CLS.	Charleston Library Society.
ConnHS.	Connecticut Historical Society.
CrozTS.	Crozier Theological Seminary.
DeR.	De Renne Library.
DHS.	Delaware Historical Society.
EI.	Essex Institute Library.
EPFL.	Enoch Pratt Free Library.
ESPCol.	Edwin S. Phelps Collection.
FROf.	<i>Franklin Repository</i> Office.
GaHS.	Georgia Historical Society.
GTOf.	<i>Gettysburg Times</i> Office.
HHL.	Henry Huntington Library.
HL.	Hamilton Library.
HSDC.	Historical Society of Dauphin County.
HSP.	Historical Society of Pennsylvania.
HU.	Harvard University Library.
IndPL.	Indianapolis Public Library.
JCB.	John Carter Brown Library.
JHL.	Johns Hopkins Library.
LC.	Library of Congress.
LCHS.	Lancaster County Historical Society.
LCPhil.	Library Company of Philadelphia.
LIOf.	<i>Lancaster Intelligencer</i> Office.
L.&F.	Letter files of Mathew Carey in the possession of Messrs. Lea and Febiger.
MdDio'nL.	Maryland Diocesan Library.
MdHS.	Maryland Historical Society.

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MdStL.	Maryland State Library.
MHS.	Massachusetts Historical Society.
MLCin.	Mercantile Library of Cincinnati.
MLPhil.	Mercantile Library of Philadelphia.
MStL.	Massachusetts State Library.
NCStL.	North Carolina State Library.
NJHS.	New Jersey Historical Society.
NJStL.	New Jersey State Library.
NoHPL.	Northampton Public Library.
NorPL.	Norfolk Public Library.
NYHS.	New York Historical Society.
NYPL.	New York Public Library.
N'yptPL.	Newburyport Public Library.
NYSocL.	New York Society Library.
NYStL.	New York State Library.
PIL.	Peabody Institute Library.
Presb'nHS.	Presbyterian Historical Society.
PStL.	Pennsylvania State Library.
RutgersCL.	Rutgers College Library.
SavNewsOf.	<i>Savannah News</i> Office.
SCHS.	South Carolina Historical Society.
Un'yGa.	University of Georgia.
Un'yM.	University of Michigan.
Un'yNC.	University of North Carolina.
UTS.	Union Theological Seminary.
VStL.	Virginia State Library.
WIFL.	Wilmington Institute Free Library.
WIL.	Watkinson Institute Library.
WisHS.	Wisconsin Historical Society.
YU.	Yale University Library.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I

FAMILY AND FORBEARS

'Mason Locke Weems, All Hallow's Anne Arundel [County],¹ Born 1759 19 [child] of David Weems born 1706 died 1779, son of Widow Weems of Scotland. He was a native of A. A. C'y & graduated with distinction at Washington College [Chestertown, Md.].² He was the author of a life of Washington, of Marion & others, & of various other publications, among others "God's Revenge against Duelling" — & against gambling. He was an erratic eccentric man. died in Beaufort, S. C. aged 66. He was ordained by Bp [of] London before 1786 [corrected from 1787] leaving 3 sons one now dead and 3 d[ughters]. M^{rs} Chestney of Baltimore only living. M[arrie]d Miss Ewell of Va who survived. After leaving Washinⁿ C[ollege] spent 3 years in G[reat] B[ritain] graduated M.D. Edinburgh, was in the British navy as surgeon on leaving All Hallow's went to V^a. and had Poheek Ch[urch]. settled and lived in Dumfries.' Ethan Allen's *Ms. Report as Historiographer of the Diocess* [sic]. MDDIO'NL. in PIL.

'The name of Weems, correctly Wemyss,³ and still so spelled in Great Britain is derived from the Gaelic, or Keltic Vumlas, or caves, and was originally applied to a tract of land on the sea and the lower part of the river Ore in Fifeshire, which presently was corrupted into Vamshire, and then to Wemyss-shire. This ancient name is still preserved by a parish in Fifeshire, and by a castle overlooking the sea.

'That part of Scotland which included this particular territory was granted in the Ninth Century by King Kenneth II to Fyfe Macduff, as a reward for aid rendered in wars with the Picts, and by him was named Fyfe. Eighth in descent from this grantee was the great Macduff, immortalized by Shakespeare. For his services in overthrowing the usurper Macbeth, and the placing of Malcolm upon the throne, the latter confirmed to him his titles to these lands,

¹ It is interesting to note that the name Arundel sprang from 'Hirondelle,' the heraldic crest of the families of that name, and that this name became by the corruption and carelessness of time, 'Iron Devil' on an old Inn sign-board in England. See *Quaint Signs of Olde Inns*, G. J. Monson-Fitzjohn, 1926. Reversing the process, this region of Maryland

dubbed originally Providence, and given over to the stern virtues and defects of Puritanism, was later named after so gentle a derivative as a swallow. So 'from grave to gay, from laughter to severe.'

² See, however, *Appendix IV*.

³ The Maryland Weems believe that they are directly descended from the Scottish family.

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and created him Earl of Fife. From the fourth Earl, Gillimichael sprang a second son Hugo, who inherited from his father the lands of Wemyss-shire, and Lochore-shire. Hugo was succeeded by a son of the same name who was, in turn, succeeded by his son, Sir John, and he, the fashion of surnames obtaining, took unto himself, like so many other Scotchmen, that of his own lands, and the family was henceforth known as Wemyss of that ilk, a Norman *de* being at first prefixed to it. So styled, the family continued prominent, held offices of importance, intermarried with other great Scottish families, and in 1628 the head of it, another Sir John, was created Baron Wemyss of Elcho, and in 1633, Earl of Wemyss and Lord of Elcho and Methel, titles held by descendants to this day.' The foregoing was quoted by Paul Leicester Ford before 1900. During the summer of 1890 he had visited the Earl of Wemyss in Wales, hoping to establish a connection there with the Weems of Maryland. Failing entirely, he evidently fell back on the family tradition of Scottish ancestry which has been so often restated as to gain credence. 'The line is recorded over a period of seven centuries, including twenty-five generations and is one of the longest and purest of Scotch pedigrees.' The ascent goes back to 1165, 'the first proved ancestor of the Earls of Wemyss being Michael of Methil . . . or of Wemyss, who died before 1202 when his son [*John*] appears as in possession of his land.' *Memorials of the Family of Wemyss*, Sir William Fraser, 1888, Vol. I, p. 476, NYPL. The house claims the doubtful glory of Queen Mary's first meeting with Darnley while visiting Wemyss Castle in February, 1564-1565, from which followed their ill-fated marriage. See *ibid.*, Vol. I, p. 90.

There are quaint touches throughout the family annals, such as the first Earl being summoned to the coronation of Charles I at Holyrood in 1628, when it was hoped he would attend 'in that statlie and decent forme with your scarlett rob, as beseemeth the dignitie of suche an actionn.' *Ibid.*, Vol. I, p. 209. The same Lord obtained two services of himself as heir of ' . . . David Wemyss of Methil, his grandfather's grandfather's great grandfather's father who died in 1430.' This prolonged climb up a family tree may well make any member of the Holland Society dizzy and it might win a blue ribbon in any such contest, even including the race run in the first chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew.

What concerns us is to note that amongst these noble lords there were some with whom our subject would seem of kith, even if not of proven kin. Thus David, the third Earl, is described as of 'a humourous and genial temperament.' *Ibid.*, Vol. I, p. 340. Another of these Wemyss was a Covenanter. 'His sympathy with the spirit of the Reformation being shown not only in his politics, but also in private life — his Countess being interred in 1640 without any funeral

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ceremony.' *Ibid.*, Vol. I, p. 219. An independence toward ritual in which, it may be hoped, the Deceased concurred, provided she shared in 'the modestie and simplicity of the man [*which*] made him displeasing to none.' *Baillie's Letters in ibid.*, Vol. I, p. 359.

Another suggested transmission of traits to Mason L. Weems from this third Earl, is found in his pleading with the Assembly for the continuance of his minister Mr. George Gillespie, at Wemyss, in doing which he reminded them that 'for fifty years back he and his people had been vexed with a most weak minister, and that he had gotten Mr. George admitted, the first in Scotland without the Bishop's consent.' *Ibid.*, Vol. I, p. 220. This is almost a forecast of his descendant's difficulties with the English Bishops.

The first mention of the name of Weems which I have found in the *Maryland Archives* is in 1722,¹ of David, elsewhere reputed to be 'son of Widow Weems of Scotland,'² and whose subsequent career was creditable. Again, on July 9, 1729, David Weems subscribed a deed as one of 'us two of his Lordship's Justices of Anne-Arundel County Court.' *Liber T., A. A. County*, p. 22, MD. LAND RECORD OFFICE.

David and his brother James were probably settled in Anne Arundel County by 1724, for in that year the latter reported surveys as Deputy Surveyor. In 1725 and 1726 and again in 1735 he was Sheriff.³

All the records show that the family connection belonged to the gentry, owning land, slaves, or ships to a comfortable and secure degree.

The name occurs so frequently throughout the eighteenth century, and in various counties of Maryland, that I dissent from one statement that all the present inhabitants of the line derive from this David and James. One example is their cousin, Colonel John Weems of Calvert County, more prominent and prosperous than they, and only somewhat younger. See *Appendix VII*. In 1748 and 1760 we find a James Weems of Calvert County, serving as a Justice, while as early as 1738, 1739 and 1740 he was in the Lower House of Assembly. Also in the *Md. Archives* we find many Weems leasing, conveying or deeding property, giving or taking mortgages, manumitting their slaves, etc. — James, John, John Jr., David, William, William Lock or Loch, Eleanor, David, Jr., Stewart, Nathaniel, John C[*ompton?*], Edward M., Mary, Amelia, William Morris, Thomas L., John B., John S., James N., Oliver, Gustavus, Theodore, Richard, Thomas Lane, Ridgeley, James N., Edward W.,

¹ 'The Weems' appears once and Mr. L. [Loch?] Weems twice in the *Book of Lands Recovered, in Ejectments, Partitions, etc.*, *Liber P. L. No. 3*, folio 1085, MD. LAND RECORD OFFICE.

² Rev. Ethan Allen's Ms. cited in first paragraph above.

³ *Md. Archives*, 1908, Vol. XXVIII, pp. 77-79, LC.

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Sophia, Elizah [*Elijah?*], and Charles Howell, in various Counties, while later in Georgetown, Va., the family is found in Oliver, George F. (or T.?), Jesse E., Elijah and Elizabeth, Edward Ward and Richard Lane.

DAVID WEEMS

'Mason's father, David Weems was the son of Lady Bettie & William Weems (a younger brother of the 3rd Earl Wemyss) he was brought to America by his maternal uncle, William Locke,¹ from whom the Parson took his middle name.'²

David Weems, born in 1706, first married

'Elizabeth Lane. Their children: ³

1. William, b. 1725, d. 1751.
2. John, b. 1727, d. 1794.
3. David, b. 1729, d. 1745.
4. James, b. 1731, d. 1784.⁴
5. Loche, b. 1733, d. 1734.
6. Loche, b. 1735, d. 1763.⁵
7. Thomas Lane, b. 1727, d. 1779.'⁶

¹ See below in this *Appendix*.

² Miss Elizabeth Chew Williams, a great-niece of Mason Weems, wrote this account to Paul Leicester Ford, dated Apr. 8, 1902. Apparently some of the facts had been supplied by Mr. H. H. Bellas, of Germantown, Pa. See a lawsuit mentioned by her, anent a promise from William Locke to his nephews David and James Weems to make them his heirs when he brought them from Scotland, after which he left his property to his own son by a subsequent marriage. See *Chew versus Williams, Maryland Reports . . . Law Cases . . . 1700 . . .* Thomas Harris, Jr., John McHenry, New York, 1809.

³ Judging from the date of his first child's birth, it will thus be seen that David Weems was first married at the age of eighteen, and again at the age of thirty-six, when his second wife was twenty-five years of age. 'The human product of those days thrive as was advertised of "English Fruit [*which*] takes kindly, and produceth Suddainly and plentifully."' *The First Map of Pennsylvania*, Worthington Chauncey Ford, *MHSProc.*, Vol. LVII, Nov. 1923, p. 179.

⁴ In the Census of St. James' Parish 1776, a James Weems is entered with 5 negro men, 6 women, 5 boys & 5 girls. See *Maryland Records, Colonial, Revolutionary, County and Church*, Gaius Marcus Brumbaugh, Baltimore, 1915, Vol. I, p. 430, MDHS.

⁵ Loch Weems' will, signed and witnessed by Nathan Lane, Benjamin Lane, son of Richard Lane, and Richard Briaut, Oct. 6, 1761, makes bequests to his 'honored Father David Weems' and appoints him sole Executor, and to his 'loving Brother John,' ditto James, Thomas Lane, his 'affectionate Mother-in-Law' [*for step-mother*], his brother Richard, his sister Suzanna, his brother David, his sister Williamina, his brother William, and his brother Mason. The will was probated Jan. 10, 1764. *Liber S. B.*, No. 1, folio 65, MD. WILL RECORD OFFICE.

⁶ Hayden in his *Virginia Genealogies*, p. 350, *f.n.*, states: 'Thomas, the only older brother [*Mason*] Weems had, the first child of Capt. Geo. Weems, his father.' This is a palpable error.

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David later married Esther (or Hester?) Hill, Aug. 5, 1742.¹ Their children:

1. 'Richard, b. 1740, d. 1780.
2. Ann, b. 1742, d. 1766.
3. William, b. 1744, d. 1744.
4. Suzan, b. 1745, d. 1805.
5. David, b. 1747, d. 1747.
6. David, b. 1748, d. 1750.
7. David, b. 1750, d. 1750.
8. David, b. 1751, d. 1820. [Married Margaret Harrison Apr. 8, 1777, by license. *St. James' Vestry Records*.² Later, 1791, Betty Lane, of Calvert County. *Judgments, Liber 91, folio 450, MD. LAND RECORD OFFICE.*]
9. Williamina, b. 1754, d. 1783.
10. Esther, b. 1756, d. 1756.
11. William, b. 1758, d. took his life with laudanum.³
12. Mason Locke, b. 1759, d. 1825.'

David Weems' name appears often in the state records of 1733, 1738, 1740 and 1741. In 1733 his purchases of furnishings from J. Ann Guichard are recorded, including: '2 Feather Beds, 1 Mill, 2 Brass Candlesticks, 1 ditto Skimmer, 1 ditto Ladle, 2 Horses, 1 Mare and Colt.' *Liber Chancery I. R., No. 4, folio 137, MD. LAND RECORD OFFICE.*

He deposed in a suit brought by Dr. William 'Loch' [see below in this *Appendix*].

The earliest church mention found of him is as follows: 'The Parishioners . . . mett . . . and made choice of Mr. David Weems . . . as vestryman.' At the same meeting he was supplanted as Church Warden. Ap. 7, 1729. He was fined for non-attendance May 6, 20 and June 3 of the same year. *St. James' Parish Record*, pp. 145, 148, MDHS.

As early as Feb. 4, 1733, his purchase is recorded from: 'William Vernon, for the sum of 'two Hundred twenty Pounds Current Money of the Province . . .

¹ 'August 5th 1742. Mr. David Weems and M^{rs}. Easter Hill was legally married by license according to Y^e Rubrick of the Church of England by the Subscriber Rector of All Saints Parish in Calv^t. County. Ja. Williamson.' *St. James' Parish Register, A. A. Co., MDDC^oNL.* — 'Mrs.,' as is well known, is an abbreviation of Mistress, which was often used by courtesy for spinsters as well as for married women.

² Hayden's *Virginia Genealogies* gives Mar-

garet Harrison Weems as Mason's mother, in error.

³ William Weems claimed the right to bring into the State a slave named Amy, part of his wife, Ann Ewell's, property, late of Prince William County, Va. &c., Ap. 16, 1799. *Liber N. H., No. 9, p. 527, MD. LAND RECORD OFFICE.* If this be Mason's brother, they had married into the same family connection. See also *Appendix V.*

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a Tract or Parcell of Land called by the name of Marches Seat lying and being on Herring Creek. . . . Together with all and singular the houses outhouses Edifices Buildings . . . Orchards, Gardins profits comodities [*sic*] Cultivated Improvements. . . .' *Liber R. D.*, No. 2, p. 42, MD. LAND RECORD OFFICE.¹ There, two years later, his youngest son, Mason Locke, was born.

Aside from his enormous family and his disappointed expectations of inheriting property from Locke, David may have become land poor. He chose unwisely in settling in Anne Arundel, near London-town, which was destined to lose ground rapidly to its growing rival, Annapolis. Yet three years before his death his property was enumerated as follows: '1 white Woman, 1 white Boy, (no white Girl) 14 N[*egro*] Men, 15 N[*egro*] Women, 7 N[*egro*] Boys, no N[*egro*] girls.'² See *Appendix IX*. In the same year he had advertised: 'Four Dollars Reward, Lost . . . a red pocket book, with D. W. in cypher on the clasp, containing 25 or 30 shillings and sundry papers . . . also a set of bills of exchange, drawn by . . . merchants of London, for twenty-five pounds sterling . . . no questions asked. David Weems.' *Maryland Gazette*, Sept. 12, 1776 *et seq.*, MDStL.

WILLIAMINA WEEMS

David and James Weems' elder sister Williamina is mentioned in letters, wills, etc. She married Hon. William Moore of Moore Hall, Pennsylvania, in 1722.³ Her parentage however is ascribed to William, 'of a younger branch of this noble family [*Wemyss*] who was slain at Preston, Lancashire, Nov. 13, 1715 . . . and Lady Elizabeth Loch his wife.' These statements are made in *Six Centuries of Moor de Falley*, by David Moore Hall, p. vi. But they were challenged (without reply found by me) by *Razzle-Dazil* in *Notes and Queries*, Series VII, Vol. VIII, p. 248, after they had been quoted in the *Philadelphia Sunday Press*, Aug. 10, 1889. Her husband's will makes the lady noble in her own right, for after appointing her sole executrix he proceeds: 'Never frightened by the rude rabble or dismayed by the Insolent threats of the ruling power — happy woman, a pattern to her sex and worthy of the relationship she bears

¹ Many names of the various family land-holdings are quaint and charming: His Lordship's Bounty, Padjet or Padgett, Dinah's Beaver Dam, Grammar's chance, Canaan, Locheden, Maidstone, Howard's and Porter's Fancy and Paschales Purchase, all very variously spelled.

² David Jr. had '1 white woman & boy, 2 negro men & 1 negro boy & girl.' *Census of*

St. James' Parish of 1776, in *Maryland Records, Colonial, Revolutionary, County and Church*, Gaius Marcus Brumbaugh, 1915, Vol. I, p. 422.

³ Their daughter Rebecca married the Rev. William Smith, an Episcopal clergyman who at one time was in charge of Kent County School, Maryland. Dr. Smith was for many years prominent and influential in Maryland church matters.

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to the Right Honourable and noble families from whence she sprang.' Allowing duly for family pride which, on the banks of the Schuylkill or Brandywine, is, in Gilbert's phrase, not often 'denied, mortified, nor set aside,' it is hardly likely that Moore would have put this 'puff' in his will, had there not been some foundation for it. 'There is the tradition that, though but a child during the war of the first Pretender, Prince James Stuart, she carried despatches in the interests of the Jacobites. . . .' David and James are here called her younger brothers, yet *their* parentage is sometimes differently ascribed, as is seen above.

ESTHER HILL

Of the family line of Mason's mother but little is known. The records are as follow:

'July 10, 1711 Mar[ried]. Abell Hill and Susanna Gott by lycence.'

'Hester dau. of Abell & Susanna Hill was born Ap^{il} 8, 1717.'

There was an Abel Hill mentioned in the will of William Collier of 'Herring Creek' dated Ap. 8, 1676, probated in June of the same year.

Abel's wife Susanna Gott was the daughter of Richard Gott and 'Hanah' his wife, born June 29, 1688. According to the record she was the second of only two daughters, and the second child. The births of five sons are recorded thereafter. Their names do not indicate any preponderant Teutonic influence in the family.¹

WILLIAM LOCKE

'Doctor Lock, Gent,' reputed maternal uncle of David Weems, may have been he of that name who was brought over in 1678 with 82 other indentured servants.

'MARYLAND SST:

Know all men by these presents that I Samuel Groome the Younger now Commander of the Globe of London am holden and firmly bound to the right Honble Charles Lord Baltemore in the Sume of One hundred and fifty pounds Sterling to be paid to the said Charles Lord Baltemore or his order Attorney Executors or assigns To which payment well and truly to be made I Bind me mine heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these presents

¹ These facts were supplied to me by the kindness of Mr. Louis H. Diehlman of the Peabody Institute Library, and are taken either from All Hallows' or St. James' Parish registers, of the MIDDLETOWN, there.

MASON LOCKE WEEMS

Signed with my hand and Sealed with my Seal dated this five and Twentieth day of Aprill one Thousand Six hundred Seventy nine —

WHEREAS the persons mentioned in the Catalogue annexed were brought over in the Ship above mentioned by Samuel Groome the Elder father of the above bound Samll. Groome as by the said Catalogue may appear and

WHEREAS upon the Humble request of the said Samuel Groome the above named Charles Lord Baltemore hath promised a generall Warrant to take up Lands for the rights of the said Severall persons amounting in the whole to four Score and Three. Now the Condition of this obligation is such that if the sd persons mentioned in the Catalogue annexed or any or either of them have not formerly been made use on [*sic*] in order to their rights nor shall hereafter be made use of to that purpose by Consent or Knowledge of the said Samuel Groome the elder or Samll. Groome the Younger or either of them or by any other under them or by their Title otherwise before mentioned, then said present obligation to be void and of none Effect or else it to stand and abide in full force and virtue —

SAMUEL GROOME JUNR. SEALED

Sealed and delivered in the presence of
Thomas Greenwin. Annexed to the
above Obligacon was the foll. Cata-
logue Vizt.

Servants Imported into Maryland by the Owners of the Ship GLOBE Vizt:

. . .

WILLIAM LOCK

. . .

[*In all 83.*']

The above would be in no way derogatory to Dr. Locke, because out of Scotland many of the younger sons of the gentry, and even more of the splendid yeomanry, were forced by economic pressure. Those who were more enterprising, adventurous, or unhappy were the first to go. The land tenure system added to this movement, fine farm folk being evicted from their holdings of many generations by the lapse of leases, followed only too frequently by an exorbitant raise of rents. Thus all improvements built or made by a man and his forbears were swept from him in a trice, for the benefit of a greedy landlord. These facts alone caused a steady stream of emigrants of character and purpose to

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the Colonies, whereby these were enriched while the mother country was impoverished. Too often there was no other way for them to get passage than by binding themselves for a given time.

‘The Highlanders had bound themselves to the master of the ship in return for their food and transportation. Thus [*becoming*] indentured servants, whose time for four, five or six years might be sold on their arrival in the colony to whomever would pay. The buying of these indentures or contracts was a recognized method of obtaining laborers in nearly all the British colonies. The hardships involved and the extent to which the servants suffered practical slavery differed with the period and the colony. . . . “Mr. and Mrs. Lawson, (for so they are called while the rest are only called John or Marg^t), were, till lately, in very affluent circumstances. He rented a considerable farm, which had descended in a succession from father to son, for many generations, and under many masters. He had also become proprietor of a piece of ground, on which he had built a neat house, . . . the term of [*his*] lease being out some time ago, advantage was taken of the strong attachment he had for what he considered his natural inheritance; and his rent raised far beyond what it could ever produce. He struggled hard for some time, but all his industry proving vain, he was forced to give up his all to the unrelenting hand of oppression; and [*to see*] the lovely family, I have been so much admiring, turned out to the mercy of the winter winds. While I was listening to this melancholy story, many of the emigrants . . . added circumstances with which their own sad fate was connected; all, however, composed a tale of wo, flowing from the same source, Vizt the avarice and folly of their thoughtless masters. . . . They could only pay [*to the shipowner*] half in hand, but bound themselves slaves for a certain number of years to pay the rest. Lawson bound himself double, to save his wife and daughter.”’ *Journal of a Lady of Quality* [Miss Janet Schaw], 1923, pp. 7, 37, LC.

The following especially applies to all that was reputed of Dr. William Locke: ‘Even before the end of the seventeenth century, young Scotsmen had begun to wander across the seas, either to fill civil offices in the colonies, to find cheap land upon which to set up farms and plantations, or to serve in regiments. . . . Both Lowland and Highland Scots were to be found in North Carolina, Georgia, New York, and Nova Scotia, with a few in Maryland and Virginia as well; and some of them, men of the old covenanting blood and spirit, alive to the opportunities offered by commerce or the development of large plantations, became important officials or planters and tradesmen of prominence and influence. Wherever these Scotsmen found themselves . . . they established homes and places of business, and . . . created centres of

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Scottish life that became in reality, little Scotlands. Mutual affection and devotion characterized these Scottish families . . . those in the colonies extended generous hospitality to the wandering members of their own family, or the families of their friends.' *Journal of a Lady of Quality*, p. 55.

One often finds advertisements of 'healthy, Indented Servants' by shipmasters in the Maryland press — even so late as June, 1792.

For the second settlement in Maryland, under the proprietorship of Cecilius Calvert, Baron of Baltimore, in 1635, there started from the mother country seventeen 'gentlemen adventurers with about one hundred and seventy five servants. No one of the settlers left descendants in the Province. But of the servants, the names as "freemen" and "gentlemen" and lands are perpetuated by their descendants as among some of the most prominent families of the state.' *Who Were the Early Settlers of Maryland*, Rev. Ethan Allen, D.D., 1866, pp. 3-4, NYPL. Also the same held good for the neighbor colony: 'It seems a fit place for younger Brothers and Men of small estate.' 'Every person there Arriving, hath Fifty Acres per Head for themselves and their Servants, be they Men or Women; and those Servants Fifty Acres each, when they have served Four Years. . . .' *The First Map of Pennsylvania*, Worthington Chauncey Ford, *MHSProc.*, Vol. LVII, Nov. 1923, pp. 179, 181.

Whether or no Mason Weems' namesake uncle was thus brought 'over the water' to Maryland, he must have been a man of both character and education. For he could not on this side have then fitted himself to practise medicine, while the records show that as 'Dr. Lock, Gent.'¹ he soon gained respect and consideration. He is mentioned as one of a commission to procure land and build and visit schools for Anne Arundel County in 1723. He served in the Lower House of Assembly the same year. *Md. Archives*, Vol. XXXIV, p. 741. From 1724 to 1730 he was justice, and he subscribed the first deed in the Land Records as 'one of his Lordship's Justices of the Provinciaall Court of Maryland, Aug. 27, 1727,' *Liber T., A.A.C.*, pp. 1, 22, MD. LAND RECORD OFFICE. He was appointed a Commissioner for his County, 1724, for 'relieving the Inhabitants . . . from some difficulties . . . in paying their Leavys.' *Md. Archives*, Vol. XXXVIII, p. 360.

Of the two churches in Anne Arundel County (sometimes formerly called

¹ That he was correctly dubbed Doctor seems proved by the suit brought by him 1727-1730, for, having been paid for medical services in 'Trashy Tobacco,' he declined to attend in illness until he was entreated, and 'said Rachel having died' he sued for pay, etc. Here

we find David Weems, 'aged about twenty-five years', deposing that 'he hath known the deponent about ten years who had practised physick about Sixteen years,' etc. From this it would appear that his uncle had brought him out from about 1719 to 1721.

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Providence),¹ St. James', Herring Creek ² was his elected place of worship. In its records we find that 'Dr. W^m Loch' served often on the vestry after his first election, Ap. 10, 1710.

He was credited with a payment in 1714 of £462 of tobacco [*p. 96*] and others of lesser amount, until in 1717 the sum was for £4450.

After 1716 he attended to the affairs of the parish, such as work 'done about the Church [*by*] his Smiths, Glaziers and Joyners' [*p. 106*], and on May 7, 1717, it was 'ordered that Doc^r. Loch Cause to be made as many bricks as will build a chimney in the Vestry Room [*to*] underpin the Church . . . at 20 p. Thousand . . . to be made upon the Gleebe and wood to be got therefrom for Burning the same' [*p. 108*].

On Dec. 6, 1720, at a vestry meeting, it was ordered that 'The Honble Coll W^m Holland & Will^m. Loch Esq^r. being desirous of building a Gallery in the Church for themselves & famillys att their own Cost & Charge the Vestry consents they Should, Provided it be not any Way prejudiciall to the Church. . . .' [*p. 117*.]

He was fined £100 Tobacco for absenting himself from the vestry meetings in 1720 but, 'Appearing before the Adjournment' his fine was 'struck off.' On Ap. 18, 1721, he was discharged & reelected Mar. 26, 1722. On May 5, 1722, he was directed to 'find some Damask for the Communion Table and to find Glass for to mend the Church Windows.' [*p. 125*.] At a meeting Jan. 1, 1722, for the contract for extending the church 'Do^r. Loch becomes surety.' Ap. 15, 1723, he was again discharged from the vestry. 'Att a Vestry' July 22, 1723: 'Will^m. Loch Esq^r acquaints the Vestry, that it was the desire of his Wife upon her death Bedd, to give the Sum of Ten pounds towards the adorning the altar Of St. James's Parrish wth. the Creed, Lord's prayer & Tenn Commandments w^{ch}. According to her Desire is [*sic*] willing to Comply wth. . . . for the Sum of fifty Shil^s. to make two Handsome Pannells. . . .' He was reelected to the vestry Apr. 26, 1724, and thereafter, in all the entries seen by me, is dubbed 'Willⁿ Loch, Esq^r.' On Aug. 7, 1725, it was agreed that 'he fill in the Churchyard . . . and make a pair of handsome folding gates at the Front of the Church Yard. . . .' [*p. 136*.] Ap. 7, 1729, he was discharged from the Vestry. The baptismal bowl given by him to the church is still in existence, dated, 1732.

Whether or no he had promised, as was claimed, to bequeath property to

¹ See *Who Were the Early Settlers of Maryland*, Ethan Allen, 1866, p. 7, NYPL.

² St. James' is still standing, though much changed since its first erection, 1682-1690; suc-

ceeded by another in 1760. See *Founders of Anne Arundel County*, J. D. Warfield, 1905, p. 207, MDHS.

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his two nephews, he later married, and on his death left his property, which was considerable, to his son William, Jr., born 1727, and to his daughter, Sarah Lock Chew, with reversion, in case of their death, to his cousins David and James Weems.¹ From this will grew later one of the famous lawsuits of Maryland.²

That David believed he was entitled to some of Dr. Locke's land is evidenced by his assigning to his own son Locke all his 'right . . . in his share of Locheden and Padget, left by William Lock to his Two Cousins David and James Weems and to their Heirs.' Feb. 14, 1760. [Witnessed by John Weems.] *Liber B. B.*, No. 2, p. 33, MD. LAND RECORD OFFICE.

APPENDIX II

EARLY EDUCATION IN MARYLAND

For the training of their children oftentimes the wealthiest southern folk imported tutors from England, or from others of the Colonies, but many of the Maryland gentry depended upon schools of sorts held in their parish vestry rooms by the officiating clergyman.³

¹ Will dated Aug. 29th, 1729. MD. LAND RECORD OFFICE. Moreover, besides the reversion to David and his brother James — who, it will be noted, he calls cousins rather than nephews — he bequeathed outright to the former 'the Land that he now lives on being part of Brewsley Hall which I bought of his Wife and of Richard Lane. To my cousin Willamina Moore fifty pounds sterling . . . I give ten pounds sterling to S^t. James Parish to be laid out in Plate as the Minister shall think proper . . . I will and desire that everyone of my wife's children by Sam^l. Lane may have a Sute of black Cloaths and on[e] Cow and Calve . . . I desire my Cousins and their Children may have each a Sute of Black Cloaths at the discretion of my administrators. The remaining part of my Estate . . . to my son William and my daughter Sarah the Youngest daughter of my Wife . . . I hereby appoint my Loveing wife and Cousin David Weems to administer . . . requesting

them that my Children may be brought up religiously after the method of the Church of England. . . .'

² *Maryland Reports . . . of the Most Important Law Cases . . . 1700 to the American Revolution*, Thomas Harris, Junior, and John M^cHenry, New York, 1809, Vol. I, pp. 463-504, Vol. II, pp. 173-174, *f.n.* A bit of evidence is found in William Lock Jr.'s will, Ap. 20, 1750, which gave 'unto the child my wife now goes with all the Residue' of his property, but with the reversion to William Chew of 'all my Lands unto which M^r David Weems lays no claim by virtue of my Father's will . . . ' *Liber No. 6*, folio 273, MD. LAND RECORD OFFICE. The suits dealt chiefly with the properties known as Padget, Locheden, Dinah's Beaverdams, Hollaway's Increase and Ford's Folly, all of Anne Arundel County.

³ 'To the Printers . . . The little Pains taken, in general, by the Inhabitants of this

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We cannot suppose this to have been the case with Weems, because at St. James' the practice had been specifically forbidden by an act of the vestry in 1674.¹ This throws a valuable light upon the assumption of general incompetence for such duties by the rector, whoever he might be. Even the most 'pious, learned and painful ministers' were not always fitted to the teaching of the young ideas to shoot. Thus Weems, if precocious in mind, like many younger children whose wits are early sharpened by contact with those of their near-contemporaries, probably escaped some of the honored rigors of the time: 'Reading and riting and rithmetic, Taught to the tune of the hickory stick.' Perhaps in his earliest years he 'just grow'd' like Topsy, but it is quite as likely that through his kinsfolk's intimate connections with parish affairs, he had the run of the church library, given through Dr. Bray's zeal. The doctor had been sent to the Colonies from England to investigate conditions and alleged scandals in the Church. After this celebrated visitation, some Godly people of England — among them Princess Amelia — donated libraries to a number of parishes in Maryland as a means toward bettering the state of the clergy.² St. James' received eighty-seven volumes printed between 1526 and 1697. [*St. James' Parish Record*, 1698, MDDIO'NL.] Their titles are so arid as to suggest the need of a reclamation project for the books quite as much as for their readers. It is less to be wondered at that many of the well-meant deposits were shamefully decimated. Such neglect was shown in parish affairs even so late as 1852 that John Pickford in visiting St. Mary of Beverly ('that noble perpendicular' as he calls it) found that the remains of the library were still 'usually' being used to light the fires in the church. 'Thirteen years afterward . . . a second visit was paid the same church, then undergoing restoration. The pews had gone and also the small collection in the library had become "fine by degrees, and beautifully less," for it was apparently reduced to one book.' *Parish Institutions of Maryland*, Edward Ingle, in *Studies in Historical and Political Science*, First Series, pp. 11, 12, LC.

In a note of Paul L. Ford's it is suggested that if Mason, as a small boy, had access to these dolorous and portentous tomes, his later laxity toward

Province . . . with respect to the Education of Youth.' The writer then proceeds to show his own attainments, while tilting against their lack in other 'Grammarians, Logicians, Rhetoricians and Geometricians . . .' thus: 'I hope these Gentlemen are capable of writing with Ease and Elegance themselves, otherwise the Scholars will run a great risk of ever being perfected in that Art. For an Habitude of ex-

pressing themselves inelegant, is not, in their riper years easily removed . . . [Signed] Philomathes.' *Maryland Gazette*, Feb. 15, 1770, MDS7L.

¹ It was then voted that henceforth 'This vestry agrees that no schools shall be kept in the vestry house of St. James' parish.' *St. James' Parish Record*, MDDIO'NL.

² See *Appendix XI*, p. 402, footnote 1.

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many orthodox questions is explained. Indeed in such works the strange contradiction is to be seen — the purer the ‘milk of the word’ the bluer. Even in homoeopathic doses such a diet is likely to affect the stoutest mental digestion, and produce ricketts. If the questing mind of the little Mason went through only a part of the collection, he must have ‘experienced’ theology in the manner described by Emerson as ‘the soul’s mumps and measles and whooping cough.’ His reactions after convalescence might have produced his fervent religiosity, combined with indifference to, or ridicule of, dogmatic and ritual piety — an unusual blend for his day.

De Kalb, as Weems’ mouthpiece, in his *Life of Marion*, 1814 edition, p. 99, says: ‘By *religion* I don’t mean *priestcraft*; I don’t mean that superstitious grimace; that rolling up of white eyes [*sic*]; and spreading of sanctified palms; with “*disfigured faces* and *long prayers*,” and all the rest of that *holy Trumpery*, which so far from making people cheerful, tends to throw them into the *dumps*.’

APPENDIX III

DANIEL JENIFER’S SCHOOL¹ AT ST. THOMAS’, JENIFER

Mr. Wroth credits this tradition, which has often appeared in print.² With the entire lack of evidence to the contrary, and given Mr. Wroth’s personal relations with Weems’ collateral family ties in Maryland, the tale may be accepted. The further story of Weems’, when thus young, being watched after frequent disappearances, and being discovered teaching the neighboring poor, agrees with everything that is known of his temperament; his freedom from race prejudice and his kindness to the Negroes were notable. See *Appendix IX*, p. 389.

¹ ‘Daniel Jenifer . . . one of that group of sturdy statesmen and patriots . . . in Maryland.’ *Parson Weems*, Lawrence C. Wroth, Baltimore, 1911, p. 14.

² First found in Bishop Meade’s *Old Churches, Ministers and Families of Virginia*, Philadelphia, 1878, Vol. II, pp. 233–236, LC.

APPENDIX V

APPENDIX IV

WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF MARYLAND

The charter for this institution at Chestertown, Kent County, was not granted until 1782, and is still under that name. As Weems was ordained in September, 1784, and had been in Great Britain for two years preceding, he must have graduated only from Kent County Free School, founded in 1723, which was the precursor of Washington College. His cousin Rebecca Moore Smith's husband, the Rev. William, was at one time in charge, but as the early records of the institution were destroyed in a fire, I am not able to give the exact date of his incumbency nor of Weems' course there. See also *Appendix I*, under Williamina Weems.

APPENDIX V

SHIP-OWNING BROTHERS

'Mason Locke Weems . . . had 2 brothers, both older than he, David Locke and William Locke Weems, each of whom commanded trading vessels plying between the Old World and the New.' Hayden's *Virginia Genealogies*, p. 351, LC. 'Mason must have travelled with them occasionally, perhaps often, for he used to tell of his being on the Mediterranean in a turtle shell. He always had a great fondness for water and a roving disposition, both of which may be attributed to his early training. Says the Doctor [*Jesse Ewell*], "Even in his old age he never missed an opportunity for a plunge, and I verily believe he would soil his hands for the pleasure of washing them."' Arthur P. Gray, in *Southern Churchman*, 1888.

These statements, so far as I have been able to learn, are the only *printed* sources of the tale that Weems sailed on his brothers' ships. As a number of the facts cited by Mr. Gray from Weems' nephew-in-law, Dr. Jesse Ewell, are inaccurate in certain particulars, notably as to dates, such as his return to this country *after* ordination in 1776, too much credibility need not be placed upon any point which lacks proof or which contravenes some other statement even if equally unsubstantiated. It seems quite likely that he took trips on his brothers' ships, as a lad and later, if credence be given to his reputed studies of medicine in Edinburgh, and for the ministry in London, because for these he must have made at least four crossings of the Atlantic. There was a letter

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advertised in the *Maryland Gazette*, June 2, 1780, addressed to him as 'Dr.', indicating that he had returned to Maryland between his two courses of study. See *Appendix VI*.

Seafaring was one of the strong bents of the family. These elder brothers, David and William Weems, both owned ships in their day.¹ See *Appendix VII*. They were men of substance, to judge from the early records.

'Memorandum June 28th 1770. It is agreed upon between William Russell Attorney for John Stewart & Campbell Merchants in London & William Lock Weems of Prince George's County Maryland that whereas the said John Stewart & Campbell have brought an action ag^t. the said Weems in the Provincial Court, & whereas the said Weems raises some objection to the Account upon which the said action is founded & both Parties being willing to have it arbitrated have left it to the determination of Mess^{rs}. Clement Hill & David Cranford & oblige themselves to abide thereby — Witness our hands & Seals at Upper Marlboro' the date above. W^m. Russell Att^y. for Jn^o. Stewart & Co. William Lock Weems Witness — Benjamin Brookes.' [M^s.] MDHS.

'The schooner Belvidere will sail for Philadelphia about the 5th of Dec. next, and is to return thence immediately: any gentleman having goods to bring from there to Patuxent, or any port near this place, by leaving their orders with Mr. William Wilkins at Annapolis, or Mr. Hollingsworth of Philadelphia, may depend on having them punctually executed, by Their humble servants, Weems and Morton.' *Maryland Gazette*, Nov. 25, Dec. 2, 1773, MDSTL.

'Lost from Herring-bay . . . a remarkable well built boat mulberry frame, almost new, calculated for seven oars . . . David Weems.' *Ibid.*, Dec. 18, 1783, Jan. 4, 1874, MDSTL.

'To be Sold, by the subscriber, at his plantation on Herring Bay, on

¹ One of them may possibly have been the father of the George Weems who, in 1817, founded the existing line of coast steamships known until 1906 as the Weems Line — since that date as the Baltimore & Carolina Steamship Company. He was captain of the chartered steamer "Surprise," which ran between Baltimore, the Patuxent River and landings on the Chesapeake Bay shore. Ownership of this line has passed from father to sons, sons-in-law, and even, at one time, to two sisters of the family, until now, when it is owned and managed by

two members of the fourth generation, the brothers, Mason L. Weems Williams and Henry Williams, Jr. [See article in *Boston Herald*, Apr. 4, 1926.] The fact that during these four generations of ownership there have been two members to bear the name of Mason Locke Weems, is a good proof that the parson has been held in high esteem by his collateral relatives, and offers a slight ground for assuming the above relationship between the first George and Mason's brothers, David or William.

APPENDIX VI

Monday the third day of April next, if fair, if not the day following, Twelve or fourteen likely negroes, consisting of men, women, boys and girls, one of these a good blacksmith. A credit of six and nine months will be given, bond on interest with approved securities. David Weems.' *Ibid.*, Mar. 23, 1786, MDStL.

'The subscriber hereby forewarns all persons whatsoever from hunting, with either dog or gun on his plantation on Herring Creek. David Weems. Nov. 24, 1791.' *Ibid.*, Dec. 15, 1791 *et seq.*, MDHS.

William Weems of A. A. Co'y assigns to David Weems of ditto his property called Pashell Purchase given him by his father David Weems Apr. 27, 1796. *Liber F. G.*, No. 4, folio 108, MD. LAND RECORD OFFICE.

'David Weems of A. A. Co'y sells to Charles Howell Weems of Balto. [*sea Captain*] for five shillings current money that Tract of Land called Pascal's Chance and also a tract called Weem's Outlet on the Creek . . . near Herring Creek, being the dwelling of Richard Weems deceased, father of the said Charles Howell Weems.' Nov. 2, 1797. *Liber F. G.*, No. 4, folio 693, MD. LAND RECORD OFFICE.

Captain Weems was in command of the Steamboat Eagle, which exploded on April 19, 1824, on its first trip from Annapolis to Baltimore. All survived except Henry M. Murray, 34, of Annapolis, who died of injuries received. See *The Ancient City, A History of Annapolis, in Maryland, 1640-1887*, Elihu S. Riley, Annapolis, 1887, p. 259, LC.

Despite Mason's marrying and settling in Virginia — if that word may fitly be applied to one who was never long stationary — he kept up friendly and trustful relations with both these brothers. Letters show that he borrowed from one of them, for Mathew Carey's benefit, before 1799. And that the love between them withstood this severest of all tests is evidenced by his directing that boxes of books be sent to him in care of either David or William as late as December, 1812. He mentions one of them affectionately more than once in the letters.

APPENDIX VI

MEDICAL STUDIES

'He [*Weems*] went abroad at an early age, probably his fourteenth year, and studied medicine for three years in London and Edinburgh.' *Parson Weems*, Lawrence C. Wroth, p. 16. This would mean that he went over in 1773, and

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returned in 1776. That he studied in Edinburgh has no proof. Letters, written in 1923 and 1924, from the authorities of Edinburgh University, the Royal College of Surgeons and the Royal College of Physicians state that his name nowhere occurs in their lists either as matriculating, studying or graduating. The only reference which distantly relates to him is one concerning a Maryland John Weems who in Edinburgh University studied for three sessions, and received the degree of M.D., in 1792.¹

If Weems returned to Maryland to practise medicine, he could not have chosen a more inopportune time. The Revolutionary War was then draining the country of every resource. Such of the population as remained at home were so absorbed or so bereft as to make poor material for a rural doctor. At its best the Herring Bay country had been sparsely settled and was by this time dwindling year by year.² But that he had taken a degree and did try his skill as a young M.D. is attested by a list of letters advertised to be called for in the Post Office, in the *Maryland Gazette*, June 2, 1780, which includes: 'Mason L. Weems or Dr. Mason Lock Weems,' while by 1786 letters were advertised as to 'Rev. Mason Locke Weems, Londontown' [*Ibid.*, Feb. 9, 1786, AAS.], and later, as to 'Rev. or Dr. Weems, Patuxent' [*Ibid.*, July 12, 1792, AAS.]. Thereafter they were always advertised as to 'Rev.' or merely 'Mr.' See also *Appendix X*.

In his own letters he shows a knowledge of technical terms not usual in a layman, and the following offer even clearer evidence: To Carey, July 1, 1814: 'As I am scientifically an Anatomist Physiologist & all that, I hold myself abundantly qualified to draw up a good treatise on Farriery. At any rate I feel desirous to try my hand especially if you will be so good as to send me . . . a small tract printed sometime past by Humphries, & which tract Doct Chapman pronounces excellent.' July 18, 1820: 'In the interim I w^d God that you & y^r most Noble son Henry w^d find it somewhere in the auricles or ventricles of y^r Hearts to give me an active little horse for the business.' Also: 'But alas! Poor Cudjo, it was soon found that the injury done to the nervous system by the laceration of the periosteum, brought on a pain so excruciating as presently terminated in a lockjaw. . . .' *God's Revenge against Duelling*, 1821, p. 10.

¹ Probably Dr. John Weems, who practised in Georgetown, D. C. There are advertisements in the local papers concerning him.

² 'Land very indifferent from London town to Annapolis.' *Journal of Nicholas Cresswell*, New York, 1924, p. 20, LC.

APPENDIX VII

APPENDIX VII

THE WEEMS IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

So far as can be discovered, Mason L. Weems bore no part in the War of Independence, though his kinsfolk served in many capacities. See *Appendix VIII*.

The following refers to his brother, as recorded in *American Archives*, 4th Series, Vol. II, p. 659: 'At a meeting of the Committee of *Anne Arundel County*, at *Pigg Point*, on *Saturday*, the twentieth of May [1775], at the request of Mr. *David Weems*, Jr.; *Joseph Galloway*, Esq., in the Chair. Present: etc. . . . Mr. *Weems* desired to know if he might procure some articles that he had occasion for, of any of the masters of ships, particularly an anchor and cable of Captain *David Carcaud*, of the Ship *Industry*. Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that Mr. *Weems*, nor any other person, can, consistent with the letter and spirit of the Association of the Continental Congress, purchase or receive the same. Resolved, That Captain *Carcaud* cannot sell, or in any manner dispose of, or land the aforesaid anchor and cable, or any rigging, sails, or other goods he may have on board his ship, to any person within the Province of *Maryland*, or any part of *America*. Ordered, That this be printed in the *Maryland Gazette*. J. Stewart, Clerk.'

David Weems [Jr.] is also mentioned as one 'of the leading merchants of the time who owned privateering vessels.' *Maryland Privateers in the Revolution*, Bernard C. Steiner, in the *Maryland Historical Magazine*, 1908, Vol. XXXV, p. 102, MDHS.

Letters of marque and reprisal were issued to him, Aug. 3, 1778, as 'owner of a Sloop called the *Washington*, mounting Carriage Guns . . . navigated by 20 men burthen 60 Tons,' and on Feb. 3, 1779, to him and William Locke Weems as joint owners of the 'Sloop *Little Sam*, mounting 6 Carriage Guns, 4 Swivels & 12 small Arms,' and Commissions were issued to the latter by the Council of Safety in 1777. See *Md. Archives*, Vol. XXI, p. 292; Vol. XVI, p. 283. David was appointed to the Committee for Anne Arundel in 1781. *Maryland Historical Magazine*, Vol. VI, 1911, p. 316. See also *Records of Maryland Troops in the Continental Service* . . . 1781, in *Md. Archives*, Vol. XVIII, p. 412.

John Weems, at a meeting of the voters of Anne Arundel County in 1774, was appointed on the committee 'to represent and act for this county and city, to carry into execution the Association agreed on by the American Continental Congress.' *Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties*, J. D. Warfield, 1905, p. 221. [See also pp. 66, 223-224.] MDHS. For his service on the Council

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of Safety see *Md. Archives*, Vol. XVI, p. 79. Probably a younger Colonel John was reprimanded with Stephen Seward, Jr., for too much zeal toward certain Annapolis folk, who were suspected of being lukewarm in their convictions, but they both promised 'that they should not intermeddle again.'

Early in the war the militia of Anne Arundel County were called upon to embody and keep watch on the possible hostile proceedings of certain British men-of-war, and this battalion was under the command of Colonel John Weems, one of the companies being led by Captain Richard Weems: 'Ordered That Col. John Weems immediately march his Battalion to South River Ferry and quarter them there, Part on this, and Part on the other Side of the Ferry, and be ready should the Man of War and her Tenders attempt any landing there to repel them. . . .' *Md. Archives*, Vol. II, p. 206. 'Major Tillard is ordered to deliver to Colonel John Weems or his Order, for the Use of the Province, a Barrel of Gun Powder . . . but that Colonel Weems do not distribute the same among the Companies of his Battalion until the Service of the Public makes it absolutely requisite.' *Ibid.*, p. 214. 'Major Price is ordered to deliver to Col. [John] Weems two hundred Gun Flints.' *Ibid.*, p. 223. 'Colonel John Weems is directed to order two Companies of his Battalion well armed into the City of Annapolis, and hold the Rest of his Men ready to repel any Hostilities, that may be attempted against any Part of the Coast in his Department by the Sloop of War or either of her Tenders. . . .' *Ibid.*, p. 224. In Col. John Weems' Report of his [31st] Battalion 'now at London Town . . . Capt. Richard Weems is present [with a] Muster real' of 8 officers and 28 privates. On March 10, 1776, the Council of Safety ordered 'Part of Col. Weems's Battalion at 12 o'clock last night to guard West River and at 12 o'Clock to-Day which was the Time the Otter was weighing anchor ordered the Remainder . . . to hasten down along the Bay-side toward the Mouth of Patuxent & to shew themselves ready to oppose any Attempts of [sic] Landing, and if they should land without a Flag to fight it out to the last with them,' adding, 'We are all worn to Stumps.' *Ibid.*, p. 234. Mar. 11, 1776, Col. John Weems is ordered to repel the Otter or her tenders in any attempt at landing at the Mouth of Fishing Creek 'as also to be ready to assist the Calvert Militia.' *Ibid.*, p. 236. He is again mentioned on Mar. 11 as stating 'that the alarm given by Cap^t Chew is without the least foundation.' *Ibid.*, p. 238. On May 8, 1776, the Treasurer is ordered to pay to Col. John Weems ninety six Pounds eight Shillings and two Pence to defray the Expence of repairing the Guns of indigent Persons belonging to 'the Militia of Queen Ann's County.' *Ibid.*, p. 417. Other mentions are to be found in Vol. XVI, pp. 78, 263, 334, 363, 401, 525; Vol. XXI, pp. 413, 499. For further accounts see *A History of Anne Arundel County*,

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Elihu S. Riley, 1905, pp. 56-59, 76-78, MDHS.; *Annals of Annapolis*, David Ridgeley, 1841, pp. 174-175, LC.

Col. James Weems commanded a Battalion of Militia in Anne Arundel County Jan. 23, 1776. *Md. Archives*, Vol. XI, p. 106, MDHS. He was appointed, with Charles Carroll of Carrollton and Thomas Dorsey, by the Council of Safety 'to collect all the Gold & Silver Coin that can be procured in A. A. Co.' *Ibid.*, p. 132. On Mar. 5, 1776 Col^s. Dorsey & Weems (respectively) are notified '. . . that a large Ship of War and two Tenders were this afternoon considerably above the Mouth of Patuxent, and it is supposed they are now off Annapolis . . . it is absolutely necessary to have your Battalion in Readiness to march at an Hour's warning.' *Ibid.*, p. 201. See also Vol. XXI, pp. 409, 410 and 411; Vol. XXXII, pp. 15 and 16, and frequent references in *Assembly Proceedings (Maryland)*, Vol. XL. Could it be this James who had been commended, with others, in a letter of Governor Sharpe, dated Oct. 22, 1776, to Lord Baltimore, as 'Gentⁿ of integrity & well attached to your L^ds Government . . . ?' *Md. Archives*, Vol. XIV, p. 334.

Some served in a civil capacity. John Weems, Jr., of Calvert County, advertised that 'thinking the making of cotton and woolen *Clothes* . . . would be of great advantage . . . to this province . . . [*be*] has brought from . . . Phil. some hands . . . and in a few days will be ready to spin, in any manner. . . .' *Maryland Gazette*, June 6, 1776, MDHS.

Incidentally, we also find several Weems serving in the War of 1812. For example: 'Balto. Ap. 3, 1813, Important Information. By capt. Weems, direct from Hampton, we learn . . . British squadron . . . Hampton Roads. . . .' (From *Whig*.) *Daily National Intelligencer*, Apr. 6, 1813, LC.

APPENDIX VIII

SERVICE IN THE BRITISH NAVY

The statement, first made in the Rev. Ethan Allen's manuscript notes, and often repeated, that Weems had sailed as surgeon on a British man of war, creates odd implications. Assuming that he was unlikely to have studied sufficiently to fit himself for such a position *before* 1776, at which time he was but seventeen years of age, he must then have shipped during the Revolutionary War, which is not probable. By 1782 he was already studying for the ministry. See *Appendix X*.

If, in his green and salad days, he did serve under the enemy's colors, great discredit should not be attached to him therefor. For if he *had* actually studied in the British Isles, his juvenile convictions, while still plastic, would naturally have been guided by such an influence. What more likely, especially in view of his impressionable nature? It is only necessary to recall our own contemporaries' varying opinions between 1914 and 1919; or to read Sir Henry Stanley's account of his enlistment under the flag of the Southern Confederacy when all his neighbors were joining, with his later comments upon his action, to admit for what feather-weight reasons individuals often make momentous decisions. It is also barely possible that after, or while, studying medicine, he found himself marooned in Europe, with all financial supplies cut off. If then urged to ship, he might readily have taken up with the idea, as the easiest visible means of support. His letters give some slight evidence of his knowledge of conditions on fighting vessels — for example, to Wayne, Aug. 5, [1805?]: 'If Job were in my situation he w^d outcurse a Boatswain of a British Man of War.' Also, they frequently show familiarity with the terms of practical seamanship.

Other strong evidence lies in his not having served, so far as we know, and as so many of his kinsfolk did, on the American side during the war. Had he done so, after serving on a British ship, in case of capture his situation would have been grave. Also, negative evidence is shown in his hatred of war, expressed in many passages of his writings. Despite his glorifying of individual martial characters, his never-failing preference is shown for peace and its ways. In his *Life of Marion*, 1818, p. 241, speaking of the evil effects of war, he says: "Now, to say nothing of those losses, which cannot be rated by dollars and cents, such as the destruction of morals and the distraction of childless parents, and widows, but counting those only that are of the plainest calculation. . . ."

His antagonism toward the British like that of many of his contemporaries may be explained on the same general grounds; though in his case should be suggested the infelicitous relations which he was likely to have endured if ever under their strict and then brutal naval discipline. And that 'certain condescension in foreigners' which the present generation can scarcely conceive, would have left many a raw place in such an outgoing nature as his.

But his animus was shared by most of his countrymen, which was natural enough for those who had lived through the two wars before 1815. Indeed, hostile comments were only too frequent on both sides of the Atlantic. Thus, in the *Maryland Republican* of Oct. 22, 1814, there is an anonymous ironical article on the boasting of the British for having carried the fort at Town Point, Tracey's Landing, garrisoned by five men, while they had a force of between

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two hundred and fifty and three hundred men. 'It is roughly a hundred years since Sydney Smith asked his famous question: "Who reads an American book?"' *Transatlantic Criticism*. [Anon.] *Nation*, Vol. 121, Sept. 9, 1925, p. 267. — 'The fastidious arrogance with which the reviewers and magazine makers of Great Britain treat the genius and intellect of this country is equalled by nothing but their profound ignorance of its situation.' *Portfolio*, 1810. — Even the climate came under their animadversions: 'The thunder-bolts will split the trees in the woods . . . and made me believe the country was ordained by the Almighty a proper place for convicts, as it would make them repent of their former sins.' *A Tour in America 1798, 1799-1800*, Richard Parkinson, Vol. I, p. 46, NYPL. — The amazing difference 'twixt Tweedledum and Tweedledee was quite as often expressed toward others as well as Americans. In his *Journal*, Nicholas Cresswell, under date of April 26th, 1777, stated that he 'Parted with my good friends Mr. Bailey, Captn. B. Knox and Mr. Wallace. To these gentlemen I am under infinite obligations for their great care of me in my sickness when I first arrived in this country. These are all Scotchmen, to which nation I had a particular dislike, owing to the prejudice of my education. I was taught to look upon them as a set of men divested of common humanity, ungenerous and unprincipled. I have always found them the reverse of all this, and I most heartily condemn this pernicious system of education by which we are taught to look upon the inhabitants of a different nation, language or complexion, as a set of beings far inferior to our own. This is a most illiberal and confined sentiment, for human nature is invariably the same throughout the whole human species, from the sooty Africans down to the fair European, allowance being made for their different customs, manners and education.' While that truly urbane Scotch gentlewoman, Miss Janet Schaw, yet notes [1774-1776], that the French are like 'chattering, grimacing monkeys . . . subtle enemies and false friends, and as little ashamed of defeat as a French Admiral or General.' Verily, *de gustibus* . . . !

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APPENDIX IX

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF DAVID WEEMS

‘In the Name of God Amen, I David Weems of the County of Anne Arundel and State of Maryland being sick and weake of Body but of sound mind & memory blessed be God therefore think proper to make ordain and constitute these my last Will and Testament in Manner and form as follows, First I recommend my soul to God that gave it me & my Body to the Earth to be there Interred at the Discretion of my Executor hereafter named and that every Worldly Effects it hath pleased God to bestow on me I dispose of in manner and form as follows

Item I do give to Richard Weems a Negro Wench named Bett and her Increase for ever allso five hundred pounds Continental Money.

Item I give unto my Daughter Susannah Merton [*my*] Negro Wench Beck & Rachel allso Negro boy Seymour and and [*sic*] Negro girl Nell and there Increase for ever

Item I give unto my Son David Weems the Plantation I now live on called Marshes Seat which I bought of William Vernon according to its meets and Bounds exprest in Vernons Deed to me which said Land with the appurtenances thereunto belonging I do give unto him the said David Weems and his Heirs forever —

Item I give unto my Son William Weems the Land I bought of William Vernon being part of a Tract called Paschales purchase which Lands according to the Meets & Bounds by which I bought of W^m Vernon I do give unto my son William and His Heirs for ever. my Will and Desire is that if my Son William should die without Heir or without disposing of aff^d, said Land then it shall becum immediately to the property of my son Mason Loch Weems and His Heirs for ever. But in case my son Mason Loch Weems should die without Heir or without disposing of the said Land then it shall be sold and the Money equally divided between my children by my last Wife.

Item I give unto my Daughter Williamina Weems my Negro Wench Easter & Cate and their Increase for ever Including the Children allready born or [*who*] may hereafter be born

Item I give to my son Mason Loch Weems my Negro boy Nead Lastly I ordain that all the Residue and remaining Part of my Estate be it of what nature or kind so ever be equally divided between my Sons David William and Mason Loch Weems or in case of either of there Deaths before a

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proper Division is made then to be equally divided between the Survivours I hereby appoint my loving Son David Weems my Hole and sole Executor of this my Last Will and Testament hereby revoking all former Wills by me made declaring thise to be my last Will and Testament In Witness whereof I have hereunto Sett my Hand and affixt my Seal This 25th day of April One thousand seven hundred and Seventy Nine.

D. WEEMS [Seal]

Witnessed by Walter Harrison

George Wallace John Pybees,

Sept. 4th 1779 attested before Elie Vallette. Reg. of Wills A. A. County'

Liber E. V. N., folio 106, MD. LAND RECORD OFFICE.

As none of David Weems' children by his first wife, Elizabeth Lane, was mentioned in this will, they presumably had been provided for earlier, as in the case of his 'Eldest Son John,' to whom he had deeded in 1757 'in Consideration of the Natural Love and Affection which I have and do bear unto [*him*,] . . . part of Portland Manor.' *Liber B. B.*, No. 1, p. 288, MD. LAND RECORD OFFICE.

It will thus be seen that at the age of nineteen Mason received one negro boy, the reversion, in case of his elder brother's death, of Paschales Purchase, and a third share of the residuary estate, which probably included at least one other slave. He evidently emancipated them very promptly, for in his letter to Carey of Aug. 11, 1797, he spoke of 'my Sam (freed Negro)', while in another, dated Dec. 25, 1801, he stated: 'When a beardless boy did I not liberate my slaves, give up my *all*? even when just putting off from the shore, & ready to try Life's uncertain Ocean, did I not with unchang^d countenance bid far off all my captive squadron, and myself alone, with nought but innocence on board launch out on the untried flood?' And again, on Apr. 21, 1807: 'I set my own slaves free, and I hope that God will never allow me to be the Slave of Another.'¹ June 19, 1807: 'An early Liberator of my Slaves, I, instinctively felt attached to Republicans.'

But after he had become involved in financial difficulties, we find that he mortgaged for eighty pounds county money to Frederick Green . . . 'two negroes to wit . . . named Nick about seventeen years old and one Woman named Milly about seventeen years old' (to be paid fifth day of April with legal interest). Dated Apr. 5, 1793. *Liber F. G.*, No. 3 B, folio 122, MD. LAND RECORD OFFICE. Moreover, we can probably attribute to the influence of his Virginia

¹ See also the tale of the mellifluous Captain Snipes and his faithful slave, in *Life of Marion*, 1818, p. 166.

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wife and their family the fact that he gave to his daughter Charlotte three slaves a year or two before his death. *Deed of Gift on file at Manassas, Va.*

But there is every evidence to show that his liberal attitude toward the colored compares favorably with that of many Americans even of today. And the only exceptions are to be found in some of his writings — but not his letters — which were written to sell, and to reach such purchasers as would have resented any other attitude than the usual ones either of contempt or of ridicule.

APPENDIX X

ORDINATION AND MINISTRY

Until after the Revolution there had never been a Bishop of the Episcopal Church in America, and all Americans desiring to become clergymen of that church were obliged to apply in person to the Bishop of London. The tale has been told of how the younger Edward Gantt¹ and Mason Locke Weems tried for ordination, and in the face of the Anglican Bishops' callousness or hostility, the indifference or technical inexperience of the United States diplomatic representatives, and the unchanged laws of Great Britain, which still called for an oath of allegiance to the King, they won their point, and it is a picturesque

¹ Edward Gantt, Jr. (whose father was also a minister and should not be confused with him), a native of Christ Church Parish, Calvert Co., brought up in the Church; ordained in England in 1784, and became Rector of All Saints' Parish, Calvert Co.; in 1785, of Christ Church Parish; resigned in 1796, in ill health; in 1798 was first Missionary to Kentucky; was seven times in the Standing Committee; died in 1810, *act.* 51. See *Clergy of Maryland*, Ethan Allen, 1860, p. 16, PIL. — The following may apply either to himself or to a relative: 'Dec. 19, 1790 . . . We dined at Mr. Gantt's — Kind treatment but he expressed himself oddly on the subject of religion as usual.' Again, May 2, 1797. 'Rev^d. Edward Gantt paid me 10. doll^s. on acc. of the Clew.' *Ms. Diary of Rev. William Duke, MDDIO'NL.* in PIL. — For a mention of Weems and Gantt see *Benjamin Franklin Self-Revealed*,

William Cabell Bruce, New York, 1917, Vol. I, p. 65, LC. — Of Gantt's father there is the following account: Edward Gantt, M.D., a native of Prince George's, Md.; brought up in the Church, ordained 1770; after having a number of parishes in Maryland he practised medicine *with* his ministry, removed to Georgetown, where he also practised medicine [see *Appendix VI*, note 1], and was appointed to officiate for the Episcopalians; five times Chaplain to the U. S. Senate; about 1808 removed to the West, after becoming somewhat Swedenborgian in his views; died near Louisville, Ky., in 1837, upwards of 96. See *Clergy of Maryland*, Ethan Allen, 1860, p. 12, PIL. See also *Writings of Benjamin Franklin*, Albert Henry Smyth, 1906, Vol. IX, p. 240, *f.n.*, LC., and *Annals of the American Pulpit*, W. B. Sprague, 1861, Vol. V, p. 311.

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bit of church and international history conjoined. It is generally admitted that they were the first neophytes from the revolted colonies to receive orders by apostolic succession after the close of the war.¹

I have found no authentic record of Weems' studies for the ministry, nor of his life while in England.² But that he satisfied his 'spiritual pastors and masters' as to his qualifications is proved by his ordination.³

It is of interest to study the growth of myths of denial as well as of those of affirmation. It was always reiterated that Weems had not been ordained, thus placing him in the category of those worst of all hypocrites, the sanctimonious. Mr. Wroth laid this goblin to rest for all time, in peace, if not honor, and proved what now seems singularly futile ever to have doubted. Letters to Weems advertised between the years 1786 and 1822 offer alone a fair amount of proof that he was authorized to use the prefix Rev., for his contemporaries who knew him chiefly as a book-seller would not have been likely to address him thus if he had merely posed as an ordained priest.⁴ Moreover, he preached in many

¹ The first American Bishop to receive laying-on-of-hands — Seabury of Connecticut — followed them by only a few weeks. Indeed, there had been a very strong prejudice against Bishops in the Colonies, and it is only just to recall this rather than to blame England altogether for the unfortunate conditions which were considered such a grievance by churchmen at the close of the war. — 'It is carefully buzzed into the people's ears that they must not encourage the covetousness of the Clergy, nor be priest-ridden, otherwise they shall soon have a Bishop with a salary to be raised by the Country and tythes . . .' Sir E. Andros, in *Papers of the History of the Church in Virginia, 1650-1776*, William Stevens Perry, 1870, p. 35, NYPL. — 'Resolved, Nemine Contradicente, That the thanks of this House be given to the Reverend Mr. Henley, the Reverend Mr. Gwatkin, the Reverend Mr. Hewitt and the Reverend Mr. Bland, for the wise and well-timed opposition they have made to the pernicious project of a few mistaken clergymen, for introducing an American Bishop . . .' *Records of the Virginia House of Burgesses*, July 12, 1771, in Nelson's *American Episcopate Controversy*, 1909. — 'Although Miracles long since have ceased, yet Wonders have not: Two remarkable Ones have

lately appeared in the New England States, demonstrative of the Changes so incident to everything in this world — Who would have thought it? A stamp-Act in Boston, and A Bishop in Connecticut! Rara Felicitas Temporum [*sic*]!' *New Jersey Journal*, May 23, 1785, NJHS. — The following lines seem apt in expressing the spirit of the times: 'However we wrangled with Britain awhile, We think of her now in different stile, And many fine things we received from her isle; Among all the rest, Some demon posses'd Our dealers in morals and sellers of sense, To have a good *bishop* imported from thence.' *Columbian Herald*, Jan. 19, 1786, CLS.

² The origin of the story, often reprinted since, of Weems absenting himself from his mates in London in order to minister to a dying sinner 'in a wretched cellar' is found in *Travels of Four Years in the United States*, John Davis, 1803, pp. 306-307, NYPL.

³ See *Parson Weems*, Lawrence Counselman Wroth, p. 24. See also *Southern Churchman*, May 21, 1910, p. 20, LC.

⁴ 'List of Letters . . . David Weems, Herring Bay; Rev. Mason Locke Weems, Londontown . . .' *Maryland Gazette* (Annapolis), Feb. 9, 1786 *et seq.*, AAS. 'Rev. Mason Weems, or Dr. Weems. Patuxent . . .' *Ibid.*,

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localities and in pulpits of varying sects throughout his life, as well as officiating at weddings and funerals. Thus on June 26, 1787, Henry Hall and Rachel Harwood were married by him. See *Records of the Vestry of All Hallow's Parish*, MDHS. For a possible wedding in Georgia, see *Appendix XVIII* and below.

'About eight miles from the Occoquan mills is a house of worship, called *Powbeek Church*; a name it derives from a Run, that flows near its walls. Hither I rode on Sundays and joined the congregation of Parson *Weems*, a Minister of the Episcopal persuasion, who was cheerful in his mien, that he might win men to religion. . . . But the discourse of Parson *Weems* calmed every perturbation; for he preached the great doctrines of salvation, as one who had experienced their power. It was easy to discover that he felt what he said; and indeed so uniform was his piety that he might have applied to himself the words of the prophet: "My mouth shall be telling of the righteousness and salvation of Christ all the day long: for I know no end therof." . . . "How, Sir, did you like my preaching?" "Sir," cried I, "it was a sermon to pull down the proud and humble the haughty. I have reason to believe that many of your congregation were under spiritual and scriptural conviction of their sins. Sir, you spoke home to sinners. You knocked at the door of their hearts." "I grant that," said Parson *Weems*. "But I doubt (shaking his head) whether the hearts of many were not barred and bolted against me." Again quoting from Weems: "'Oh, it is sweet preaching, when people are desirous of hearing. Sweet feeding the flock of Christ, when they have so good an appetite.'" *Travels in the United States*, John Davis, 1803, pp. 305-306 and 308, LC.

Weems wrote, Sept. 10, 1803: '. . . But I am oblig^d to preach very often to get the People together. I have preach^d 4 times in the 8 days past.'

'Octr. 18th 1808. To candles to light church for Parson Weems, 1 10 1/2.'

July 12, 1792 *et seq.*, MDHS. 'A List of Letters remaining in the Post-Office, Upper Marlborough, if not taken up by the first of July, will be sent to the General Post-Office as dead letters, viz. . . . the revd. Mason L. Wims, Maryland . . .' *Maryland Gazette*, June 25, 1795, HU. See also: *Delaware Gazette*, July 12, 1796 *et seq.*, HU.; *Virginia Gazette & Winchester Centinel*, Oct. 12, 1796, HU.; Feb. 24, 1797 *et seq.*, HU.; *Virginia Herald & Fredericksburg & Falmouth Advertiser*, Jan. 10, 1797, HU.; *Virginia Gazette & General Advertiser*, Jan. 18, 1797, HU.; *City Gazette* (S. C.), July 6, 1804, CLS.; *Bartgis's Republican Gazette* (Md.), Oct. 5, 1804 *et seq.*,

HU.; *American* (Md.), Sept. 6, 1805, HU.; *Wilmington Gazette*, Oct. 15, 1805 *et seq.*, HU.; *Cumberland Register* (Pa.), Dec. 31, 1805 *et seq.*, HU.; *Augusta Chronicle*, July 4, 11, 18, 1807, UN'YGA.; *Daily National Intelligencer*, Apr. 6, 1813 *et seq.*, LC.; *Democratic Republican* (Pa.), Apr. 2, 1816 *et seq.*, AAS.; *Messenger* (Georgetown), July 3, 1816 *et seq.*, LC.; *Intelligencer & Weekly Advertiser* (Lancaster, Pa.), Jan. 4, 1817, LIOF.; *Harrisburg Republican*, Apr. 8, 1817 *et seq.*, NYHS.; *Centinel* (Gettysburg), Apr. 9, 1817 *et seq.*, GTOF.; *National Intelligencer*, Jan. 2, 1821, UN'YGA.; *Augusta Chronicle*, July, 1822 *et seq.*, UN'YGA.

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Vestry Records of St. Peter's Church at Lewes, in Some Records of Sussex County, Delaware, Charles Henry Blake Turner, Philadelphia, 1909, p. 269, LC.

'Married, on Tuesday, 30th ult. by the Rev. Mr. Weems, Mr. Walker Wilkinson, aged 80, to the amiable and much accomplished Miss Hepsey Jefferson, aged 16, daughter of Mr. Thomas Jefferson — all of Charles co. Md.' *Virginia Argus*, Dec. 16, 1813, AAS.

Parson Weems officiated at the marriage of Col. Wm. Gerard Chandler Fowke Phillips, C. S. A., to his cousin Sarah Edith Cannon, May 14, 1817. See Hayden's *Virginia Genealogies*, p. 161, LC.

Weems wrote, Dec. 14, 1817, from Piscataway: 'Have just preach^d — tis the Sabbath.'

' . . . [he] travelled the whole southern circuit, preaching at every Court House the session sermon, and bestowing the fee then allowed for that service, £3, in some becoming and charitable manner. At Newberry he devoted it to the education of a poor girl. This was somewhere about 1807 or 1808.' 'In 1822 or '23 . . . He preached in the capitol, [at Columbia, S. C.] on "God is love," an excellent and touching sermon. Though professedly an Episcopalian, his doctrines are said to have approached universal salvation.' *Weems, The Biographer and Historian*, William Gilmore Simms, in *Views and Reviews, Second Series*, 1845, pp. 130-131, LC.

An article in the *Maryland Gazette* on the festival held at the City Tavern, Annapolis, at which Weems offered prayer is quoted in *The Ancient City, The History of Annapolis*, Elihu S. Riley, 1887, p. 225, MDHS.

'Mon. Dec. 14th . . . went to the Representatives Chamber where I heard the Rev. Mr. Weems a famous preacher, author, bookseller, &c. preach an eloquent extempore sermon on Love to neighbors &c. He seemed to think love the sum and essence of Christianity, and this a physical affection, attainable by all. It is said he always preaches in the same strain.' *Diary of Edward Hooker, 1805-1808*, reprinted in *Annual Report of the American Historical Association for the year 1896*, Washington, 1897, Vol. I, p. 910, LC.

See also *Diary of Rev. William Duke, Appendix XV*, and Weems' letters of Apr. 14, 1800; Feb. [?] and 24, Mar. 21, May 8, July 4, Aug. 10, Oct. 15, Dec. 17, 19, 1801; Jan. 20, Feb. 19, Apr. 7, 28, June 16, 29, July 3, 24, Nov. 1, 19, Dec. 9, 1802.

The letters which led up to this oft-discredited consummation, though already in print, make such capital reading that they are given again:

MASON LOCKE WEEMS

‘Mason Weems to John Adams,¹

[*London? early in 1784?*]

Sir,

Though I have not the honor of being personally acquainted with you, I flatter myself this will not be deemed an intrusion as it is a measure which necessity and the advice of my friends (Messrs. Johnson and Chase) have recommended. The particulars of my case, Mr. Johnson informs me, he communicated to you, during your short stay in London, but as I have not the vanity to imagine they were of consequence enough to merit a place among the infinitely more important matters which engage your attention, I beg leave to recapitulate them.

I am a native of America and a student of divinity; two years ago I came over to complete my studies and take orders. My first application was to the great Lowth, Bishop of London, who flatly refused because I intended to return to America, a thing unprecedented in the annals of sacred history. Watson, Bishop of Landaff, gave me a gentler reception, condescended to sympathize with me on the distressed situation of our church, and even gave me to hope that a letter from his Excellency the Governor of Maryland² (my native State) would gain me admission into the sacred vineyard. His Excellency wrote me a very polite letter, which I immediately carried to the bishop. His Lordship received me very courteously, but told me that he could do nothing without the permission of the archbishop. To the archbishop I went, and have had three conferences with him on the subject, the result of which is, that his Grace, though very willing, cannot ordain me. *Parliament*, it seems, must take it in hand. A law must be passed to enable him to ordain young Americans, without putting them to the pain of swallowing the oaths of supremacy and allegiance. Thus, sir, you see the condition I am in, after a loss of time, money, and patience, sufficient to distract a stoic.

I was with Mr. Chase this morning. He thinks it probable that the bishops in Holland, Sweden, or Germany, would ordain me without requiring the oath of allegiance. *He* is of opinion I cannot take it with safety. I have no decided opinion of my *own* on the subject, but I know many ingenuous people who differ from Mr. Chase. If you will be so *very* kind as to give me *your* opinion on the subject, and to let me know by the first post or opportunity, whether I can be ordained on the continent, I will

¹ Then United States Minister at The Hague.
The original of this letter is in the AFHS.

² Probably William Paca, 1783–1784.

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repair there immediately, and consider it as an everlasting obligation conferred on your Excellency's

Most obedient servant,
MASON WEEMS.'

Works of John Adams, Charles Francis Adams, Boston, 1850-1856, Vol. VIII, pp. 184-185, LC.

'John Adams to Mason Weems

The Hague, 3 March, 1784.

SIR, — I have received the letter you did me the honor to write me under the cover of my friend, Mr. Johnson; and however dangerous it may be for an American minister of state to intermeddle in a matter of religion, especially without orders from his superiors, I think I can neither transgress nor give offence by rendering you any service in my power, as a private citizen, in a matter of so serious concern.

In the United Provinces of the low countries there are no diocesan bishops, nor any higher order of clergy than presbyters. The Dutch church is wholly Presbyterian, and, therefore, you cannot obtain ordination by coming here. In Sweden and Denmark there are Lutheran bishops, but what articles of faith it may be necessary to subscribe, or what liturgy to adopt, I am not informed. I believe that consubstantiation at least, is among their creeds. By what laws or usages of their country these Protestant bishops may be bound, I know not.

His Excellency, the Baron de Nolken, Ambassador of the King of Sweden to the Court of St. James, I believe would very readily inform you; and Governor Pownall, who is well acquainted with that minister, has so much humanity and friendship for America as to introduce you to him if you desire it. I believe I may venture to give you leave to make use of my name to either of those personages. If you were here, I would introduce you to the Baron Schultz von Ascheraden, the envoy of his Swedish Majesty to their High Mightinesses; but I think it would save you the expense and trouble of travelling, to apply to the Swedish ambassador in London for information. It is a matter of importance, delicacy, and difficulty, and I should advise you to write to Dr. Franklin and Mr. Jay upon the subject, if you cannot obtain satisfaction in London. They may consult the Swedish and Danish ministers at Versailles. I could do the same with those of the same powers at the Hague, but as congress have joined Dr. Franklin, Mr. Jay,

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and myself together on most of their affairs in Europe, I should not think it prudent in me to take any step but in concert with those ministers.

I think the advice of my friend, Mr. Chase, against taking the oaths of allegiance, prudent, at least until the members of the church in America shall have digested some plan for their future government. Perhaps parliament may authorize some bishop in England to ordain American candidates without administering the oaths. The Bishop of St. Asaph, I believe, would give you the best advice, and perhaps Mr. Benjamin Vaughan could procure you an introduction to his Lordship. I have not the honor to be known to his Lordship. But Mr. Vaughan, if you show him this letter, will, I flatter myself, be of service to you.

With much respect,
JOHN ADAMS.'

Works of John Adams, Charles Francis Adams, Boston, 1850-1856, Vol. VIII, pp. 185-186.¹

Weems had apparently been in Nantes at the time that Jonathan Williams, Jr., wrote a letter to Benjamin Franklin from there, dated Mar. 8, 1784, introducing Weems and his companion Mr. Manifold 'who go to England on business'; he was called 'Dr. Mason Weems' who intends to go to Edinburgh 'to pursue the study of his profession.' See *Appendix VI*.

That the British Parliament passed an Enabling Act, which permitted its Bishops to ordain American applicants to the ministry, without the Oath of Allegiance, was doubtless due in part to Mr. Adams' favorable negotiations with Denmark. 'The liberal decision of his Danish Majesty, respecting the ordination of American candidates for holy orders in the Episcopal church called the Church of England, as soon as it was known in England, produced a more liberal spirit and decision here than had prevailed before, so that I hope that respectable body of our fellow-citizens who are interested in it have derived a benefit from it.' John Adams to John Jay, London, May 30, 1785. *Ibid.*, Vol. VIII, pp. 252-253, 1C.¹

John Adams further wrote:

'Another instance. Mr. Weems, a young gentleman of liberal education from Virginia or Maryland, went to England in hopes of obtaining holy orders in the Church. He wrote a letter to me, as American minister in Holland, though he had never seen me, and indeed has never seen me since,

¹ See also pp. 197-199, 231-232, 333-335, 349, 361-362, 382-383, 403-405.

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bitterly complaining not only of the stern refusal, but even of the rough treatment he had received from the English bishops, and even from the great Hurd.¹ He desired to know if he could receive ordination from the bishops in Holland. There were no bishops in Holland, but there were Protestant bishops in Denmark. At the first meeting of the ambassadors, I asked Mr. De Saint Saphorin, the ambassador from Denmark, whether an American candidate for the ministry could receive from the bishops in his country Episcopal ordination; and whether any oaths, subscriptions or professions of faith would be required; and whether the articles of the Church of England were sufficiently conformable to the faith of Denmark. "Mon Dieu! Je n'en sais rien" My God said Saint Saphorin, I know nothing of the matter; but if you desire it, I will soon inform myself. I thanked him, and should be much obliged to him. In a shorter time than I could imagine, he came to inform me that he had written our conversation to the prime minister of his court, who had laid it before the king, who had taken it into consideration in his council, and had ordered it to be laid before the convocation, who had unanimously determined that any American candidates of proper qualifications and good moral character should at any time receive ordination from any bishop in Denmark, without taking any oath or professing any other faith, but merely subscribing the articles of the Church of England. He even went so far as to say that the king, if we desired it, would appoint a bishop in one of his islands in the West Indies to accommodate American candidates. I wrote this to Mr. Weems, and it soon procured him a more polite reception from the English clergy. Indeed it laid the first foundation not only of Mr. Weems's ordination, but of the whole system of Episcopacy in the United States.' *Ibid.*, Vol. IX, pp. 275-276, reprinted from *Correspondence of the late President Adams*, Boston, 1809, pp. 52, 53.

A letter from Weems and Edward Gantt to Benjamin Franklin from London, dated July 9, 1784, is reproduced in facsimile as the first letter in Volume II of

¹ Richard Hurd, 1720-1808, a scholar and commentator. Became Bishop of Worcester; declined the Primacy offered him in 1783. Was known, so says Mme. d'Arblay, as 'The Beauty of Holiness.' — Paddington near London, May 25, 1784: 'There are, at this time, in this country [*England*], candidates for orders in the Church of England both from Virginia & Maryland; it will not surprise you, that from the changes that

have taken Place, they should meet with Difficulties . . . Some of these . . . I hope, will be soon got over . . . ' [urging a 'Restoraⁿ of the old Establishment of the Church of England']. *Letters of Jonathan Boucher to George Washington*, Worthington Chauncey Ford, p. 50, 1c. — As Weems' letter to Adams says nothing about Hurd, it would seem that at least one letter from him is still undiscovered.

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the present work. It has been already printed in *Life of Benjamin Franklin*, John Bigelow, Vol. III, and in *Writings of Benjamin Franklin*, Albert Henry Smyth, 1906, Vol. IX, pp. 238-240, LC.

From the Journal of Benjamin Franklin

[*Passy*, 1784] 'Received a letter from two young gentlemen in London, who are come from America for ecclesiastical orders, and complain that they have been delayed there a year, and that the archbishop will not permit them to be ordained unless they will take the oath of Allegiance; and desiring to know if they may be ordained here. Inquired, and learned that, if ordained here, they must vow obedience to the Archbishop of Paris. Directed my grandson to ask the Nuncio if their bishop in America might not be instructed to do it literally. Saturday, 17th. The Nuncio says the thing is impossible unless the gentlemen become Roman Catholics. Wrote them an answer.' *The Works of Benjamin Franklin*, John Bigelow, 1888, Vol. VIII, pp. 318-319, LC.

'To Messrs. Weems & Gantt

Passy, nr. Paris, July 18. 1784.

GENTLEMEN,

On receipt of your Letter, Acquainting me that Archbishop would not permit you to be ordained, unless you took the Oath of Allegiance, I apply'd to a Clergyman of my Acquaintance for Information on the Subject of your Obtaining Ordination here. His Opinion was, that it could not be done; and that, if it were done, you would be requir'd to vow Obedience to the Archbishop of Paris. I next enquir'd of the Pope's Nuncio, whether you might not be ordain'd by their Bishop in America, Powers being sent him for that purpose if he has them not already. The Answer was, The Thing is impossible; unless the Gentlemen become Catholicks.

This is an Affair of which I know very little, & therefore I may ask Questions & propose means that are improper or impracticable: But what is the necessity of your being connected with the Church of England? Would it not be as well if you were of the Church of Ireland? The Religion is the same, tho' there is a different Set of Bishops and Archbishops. Perhaps if you were to apply to the Bishop of Derry, who is a Man of Liberal Sentiments, he might give you Orders as of that Church. If both Britain & Ireland refuse you; and I am not sure that the Bishops of Denmark or Sweden would ordain you unless you became Lutherans; what is to be done? Next

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to becoming Presbyterians, the Episcopalian Clergy of America, in my humble opinion, cannot do better, than to follow the Example of the first Clergy of Scotland, soon after the Conversion of that Country to Christianity; who when their King had built the Cathedral of St. Andrew's, and requested the King of Northumberland to lend his Bishops to ordain one for them, that their Clergy might not as heretofore be obliged to go to Northumberland for Orders, and their Request was refused; they assembled in the Cathedral, and, the Mitre, Crosier, & Robes of a Bishop being laid upon the Altar, they, after earnest Prayers for Direction in their Choice, elected one of their own Number, when the King said to him, *Arise, go to the Altar, and receive your Office at the Hand of God.* His Brethren led him to the Altar, robed him, put the Crozier in his Hand, & the Mitre on his Head, and he became the first Bishop of Scotland.

If the British Islands were sunk in the Sea, (& the Surface of this Globe has suffer'd greater Changes) you would probably take some such Method as this: And if they persist in denying you Ordination, tis the same thing. An hundred Years hence, when People are more enlightened, it will be wonder'd at, that Men in America, qualified by their Learning and Piety to pray for & instruct their Neighbours, should not be permitted so to do till they had made a Voyage of 600 Miles out & home, to ask leave of a cross old Gentleman at Canterbury: who seems, by your Account, to have as little Regard for the souls of the people of Maryland, as King William's Attorney General Seymour had for those of Virginia. The Reverend Commissary Blair, who projected the College of that Province, and was in England to solicit Benefactions & a Charter, relates, that, the Queen in the King's Absence having ordered Seymour to draw up the Charter which was to be given with 2000 £ in Money, he oppos'd the Grant, saying that the Nation was engag'd in an expensive War, that the Money was wanted for better purposes, & he did not see the least Occasion for a College in Virginia. Blair represented to him, that its Intention was to educate & qualify young Men to be Ministers of the Gospel, much wanted there; and begg'd M^r. Attorney would consider that the People of Virginia had Souls to be saved as well as the People of England. *Souls!* said he, *damn your Souls. Make Tobacco.*

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, &c.

B. FRANKLIN.'

Franklin Papers, APBS.

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EPISCOPACY IN MARYLAND

To undertake an Episcopal ministry in Maryland in 1784 was to come to a feast after the table had been cleared. At no time, even during the Revolutionary War, had the Church been at a lower ebb in prestige or effectiveness. The causes which led to these conditions are now common knowledge, yet they are repeated here to make matters clear.

The famous Maryland 'Toleration Act' of 1649 stated that any one calling others 'Heretick, Schismatick, Idolator, Puritan, Independent, Prespiterian, Popish priest, Jesuit, Jesuited papist, Lutheran, Calvinist, Anabaptist, Brownist, Antinomian, Barrowist, Roundhead, Separratist, or any other name or term in a reproachful manner relating to matter of Religion, shall for every such offence forfeit the sune of ten shillings sterling.' As Fiske further remarks in *Virginia and Her Neighbors*: 'A statute which threatens Unitarians with death leaves something to be desired in the way of toleration. . . . Nevertheless, for the age when it was enacted this statute was eminently liberal.'

This Act was soon followed by sectarian feuds of the usual atrabilious complexion in all things theologic. Contests were waged locally or through the Acts of the Assemblies against the Roman Catholics or the Jesuits who, in such public documents, were accused, after 'corrupting and alienating' the slaves, of an intent to arm them 'at a proper time for our destruction.' Furthermore, the execution of the Penal Statutes was urged, complaint being made that criminals escaped the death penalty 'upon the merit of becoming proselytes to the popish religion.' *Votes and Proceedings of the Lower House of Assembly*, July 3, 1755, Vol. II, pp. 20-21.

On the other hand the Anglican Church had tried to obtain a dominating influence as early as 1661, when the Assembly discussed providing by law for its 'mayntenance.' By 1694 the ten counties of the Province were divided into thirty parishes of the 'Established Church.' Furthermore, a law was passed in 1702, levying for its benefit an annual tax of 40 lbs. of tobacco upon each 'taxable,' by which was meant every inhabitant over sixteen years of age except 'white women, priests or recipients of alms.'¹ This tithe was to be applied first toward building a church or 'chapel of ease,' where lacking in each parish, and thereafter toward the support of the clergy. At that time these were living under anomalous conditions. 'Though the gift of their livings

¹ This category recalls Henry James' comment upon the French of twenty-five years odd ago that though women are not priests, most Romish priests are like women.

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vested in the proprietor, yet Lord Baltimore being a layman, had no ecclesiastical power, and therefore could not dismiss a cleric from his parish.¹ Nevertheless the rights of nomination and donation which he possessed implied also the right of visitation, by which alone removal was possible, and so neither the Bishop of London, in whose diocese the American churches were placed, nor the vestries in this country, could remove a clergyman no matter how he misconducted himself. There are cases on record of congregations locking their church doors against their officiating clergy. Several times the Bishop sought to oust some particularly outrageous misdoer, and in a number of instances the vestries went to law in an endeavor to rid themselves of an unbearable parson, but in no case with success. All attempts to remedy this state by acts of the Assembly to establish an ecclesiastical court were defeated either by the Governor or the clergy who saw in them but a blow at episcopal authority. And indeed, such an act would surely have been negatived by the Privy Council, had it ever passed with the governor's sanction.' *Notes of Paul L. Ford.*

Yet private correspondence, as well as letters of a more official character to the British hierarchy abounded with complaints of the lives of incumbents. 'It was no unusual thing for ministers who had been disgraced at home to be sent to America to reform. Reformation did not always take place. . . . Drunkenness was their chief failing. . . .'² But every sin of the Decalogue was charged and often proven against certain incumbents, among which can be cited 'swearing, drinking, lying, raking, duelling, adultery, incest, polygamy and murder.' Probably the majority of the ministers were of a different type, but as Dr. Bray pointed out: 'the Miscarriages of one unhappy Clergyman [*are*] more taken notice of, to our Disparagement, than the most Exemplary

¹ Moreover, several of the Lords Baltimore were Romanists, and paid slight heed to the qualifications as to piety or morality of candidates for livings within another church body, while others paid less heed to their own. Lord Frederick Baltimore was tried for rape, while tacit acknowledgment of his irregular connections and their resulting offspring may be seen in the clauses of his will, which Jonathan Boucher described as 'more absurd & more vexing than you will easily believe.' To George Washington, Mar. 3, 1772, *Letters of Jonathan Boucher to George Washington*, Worthington Chauncey Ford, 1899, p. 37, LC.

² *Parish Institutions of Maryland*, Edward Ingle, in *Magazine of American History*,

April, 1883, LC. — Alexandria, Jan. 1, 1775: 'The Parson is drunk and can't perform the duties of his office.' *Journal of Nicholas Cresswell*, New York, 1924, p. 52, LC. — 'The grant from the Treas. by King Charles II, entrusted to the Bishop of London, £20 for each missionary to defray his passage. Later it was oftentimes delayed . . . If this bounty were retrenched it would be impossible to get these colonies supplied.' Letter of John, Bishop of London, to the Lords of the Treasury, June 23, 1721, in *Emigrant Ministers to America*, Gerald Fothergill, 1904, p. 2, LC. — 'There are among the clergy of Maryland many worthy persons, who deserve more encouragement than can be expected here. I am sorry to represent

and Laborious Lives of the Ten best Men in a Neighbourhood shall be spoken of, to the Commendation, and the Honour of our Order.’¹

‘Many very peculiar characters were exported from England to lead the souls of the American colonists into the paths of righteousness. . . . Like the merchandise sent to America, many of the clergy might have been called “colonials,” meaning a quality of article not good enough to be used at home, but quite good enough for use in a colony thousands of miles away.’ *Letters of Jonathan Boucher*, Worthington Chauncey Ford, 1899, p. 6, LC.

Such conditions greatly increased the natural resentment against the 40 lb poll tax of all those — whether Romanists or ‘Dissenters’ — who were forced to contribute to a faith from which they received no benefits, doubtful as these must have been in many unsavory instances. It was well known that often the tithes were paid in trashy tobacco, unfit for exportation. It may be surmised that in these reprisals the damaged goods, though adulterated, were, like the quality of mercy, not strained, but fell upon both the just and the deserving.

Another evil was connected with this impost, for as population grew in to your Lordship, on the contrary, that there are some whose education and morals are a scandal to their profession, & I am amazed how such illiterate men came to be in holy orders’. Letter of Governor John Hart, 1714, quoted in a note of Paul L. Ford — reference not found. — ‘At our last visitation the Churchw^{as} made several presentments. One was of Mr. Bayly (a Clergyman lately come from the Western to our Shore in Somerset), for his excessive drinking, quarrelling, and swearing, and I am very well informed that his behaviour hath been very irregular for several years past. I have cited him to appear in July next to answer the articles exhibited against him, and shall follow the instructions of my Commission. A second is of an incestuous marriage, & a third of a woman supposed to have a Child by her father-in-Law. Others are for crimes of another nature, and which, I hope, may be corrected and amended by admonition and reproof.’ Letter of Rev. Christ^r. Wilkinson, 1718, in *A List of Emigrant Ministers to America, 1690-1811*, Gerald Fothergill, London, 1904, p. 63, LC.

¹ ‘These conditions had become so notorious that the authorities in Great Britain sent

out Dr. Bray to inquire into and rectify them.’ *First Parishes of Maryland*, Percy G. Skirven, Baltimore, 1922. — ‘By the best account, it appears that Dr. Thomas Bray, formerly the Bishop of London’s commissary in Maryland, established in this country previous to the Revolutionary war, thirty-nine libraries; the whole of which contained 2,666 volumes of well-chosen books. Of these libraries, he founded 30 in Maryland, 3 in Virginia, 1 in Massachusetts, 2 in New-York, 1 in New-Jersey, 1 in Pennsylvania, and 1 in South Carolina . . . He contributed liberally himself . . . as well as obtaining assistance at home and abroad.’ *The Old Brick Churches of Maryland*, Helen West Ridgeley, p. 43. See also *Appendix II.* — Virginia also suffered from the cleric who ‘woful behaved himself.’ ‘Indeed for want of clergymen we are obliged to bear with those we have, much more than we should do if we had others to supply the vacancies.’ Commissary James Blair in *Papers of the History of the Church in Virginia, 1650-1776*, William Stevens Perry, 1870, p. 35, NYPL. — Alexandria, Mar. 19, 1775: ‘The Parson is too lazy to preach.’ *Journal of Nicholas Cresswell*, New York, 1924, p. 59, LC.

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some parishes, the amount of the poll tax became very large, and proved an object of desire to many. Some parishes yielded over '£1,000 annually.'¹

The dissatisfaction with the clergy expressed itself in 1763, when by law their salaries were reduced one quarter, and again in 1771, when a stringent act was passed calculated to discourage further additions to their numbers.²

Finally in 1773, when political bitterness and the controversy over having American bishops had alike increased the prevailing resentment toward Great Britain, the unpopular poll tax was rescinded amidst great rejoicing.³ And the measure was upheld in 'The Declaration of Rights' adopted by the Maryland Convention in 1776.

This act left the Episcopal clergy between two stools of penance — on the one hand, except for their glebes⁴ they were dependent solely upon voluntary contributions, on the other there was an added cause of friction between them and their flocks due to political conditions. The Act of 1776 gave legislative authority over many matters hitherto considered to be of purely ecclesiastical import, and if they accepted this new jurisdiction the clergy must prove false to their oath of allegiance to the crown.⁵ Some who were loyalists resisted the new law. It is of record that one clergyman continued to pray for the King, as was enjoined upon him by his oath, only by a display of pistols in the pulpit. Many other like-minded but milder-mannered preachers left their livings, others again turned to Methodism,⁶ then coming into popular favor in the colonies, and thus many churches, 'deprived of their services, began to decay.'⁷

¹ Note of Paul L. Ford. — 'Mr. Magowan is not here [*Mt. Vernon*] he has been fortunate in a Presentation to a good Parish (Herring Bay, I think it is called or known by) and is now living therein in Maryland . . .' George Washington to the Rev. Mr. Boucher, Jan. 26, 1769, in *Catalogue of Henry Sotheran*, London, before 1902. [This refers to St. James' Parish.] — Rev. Walter Magowan had been tutor to 'Jacky' Custis, Mrs. Washington's son; a native of Ireland; brought up in the Church; ordained 1768; in 1769 became the incumbent of St. James' Parish, Ann Arundel Co., died there 1786, being upwards of 50. See *Clergy of Maryland*, Rev. Ethan Allen, 1860, p. 12, PIL.

² See *Parish Institutions in Maryland*, Edward Ingle, in *Magazine of American History*, April, 1883, p. 268, LC.

³ 'The bells are tolling adieu to the 40 [*lb.*] per poll.' *Maryland Gazette*, Apr. 1, 1773, MDSrL.

⁴ This land they had to cultivate themselves, or rent. In a thinly settled region, where land was still plentiful, this means of support was probably more visible than tangible. See *Duke's Diary, Appendix XV.*

⁵ This Act enjoined that all prayers for the King in the Book of Common Prayer were to be omitted 'until our unhappy differences are ended.'

⁶ 'The weakness of the English Church in this country, the predominance of other religious organizations not recognizing or depending upon apostolical succession, the personality and force of the men whom Wesley sent out, and the need of administration of the Sacraments, which could not be provided by the weak Episcopal Church, led to the almost immediate formation of the Methodist Episcopal Church.' [*Anon.*] *Review of Francis Asbury*, by Ezra Squier Tipple, in the *Nation*, Apr. 13, 1916, NYPL.

⁷ Twenty-eight out of the forty-five parishes

'A next step of the government of Maryland was to pass, in 1779, an act transferring to select vestries all the property of each parish hitherto belonging to the Established Church, and giving to these bodies the right to select their own clergymen. It was for the moment however, a privilege of little value, since the few clergymen remaining in the state were already in charge of a parish and in some cases of more than one.' The war had effectually ended both the outflow of Americans seeking ordination in England and the inflow of clergymen from Great Britain. '[Men] to fill the vacant parishes were simply not obtainable, and to remedy this evil it was even proposed that the Legislature pass an act to organize the Episcopal Church in the state and particularly to appoint "ordainers to the ministry."' Notes of Paul L. Ford. This measure failed of enactment, but its discussion might well have led young men into false hopes when planning to enter the ministry.¹

Besides this general disintegration the rural clergy had to face hardships which, if considered as a means of grace, compare favorably with those in many a missionary field. Voluntary contributions were their only certain means of support — if that can be called certain which was both indefinite in amount and irregular in payment. Their huge parishes consisted of widely scattered plantations, and they worked with vestries so indifferent that church matters were frequently held up owing to non-attendance at meetings.² Many of their

of Maryland soon became vacant. See also Weems' letter to John Adams, July 9, 1784, *Appendix X*. In 1780 the five parishes of Anne Arundel County were in a disorganized state. Out of nine churches, but two had clergymen — Rev. Walter Magowan at St. James' and Rev. William Hanna who officiated at All Hallows' and at a chapel of Ease, which pretty old epithet meant a place of worship used before a regular church had been erected and consecrated. — 'In 1783, at the acknowledgement of our Independence, there were 38 church of England Clergymen in Maryland.' *Clergy in Maryland*, Rev. Ethan Allen, p. 88, MBS.

¹ The House of Delegates of Maryland took up such 'matters of high concernment as religion and learning' in an Address of Jan. 8, 1785, urging that in future the ministers of the gospel of all societies of Christians 'must chiefly be our own natives,' and suggesting 'an equal tax . . . for all denominations.' The gain in toleration was shown by the provision that if 'any free and

taxable inhabitant' declares that he be 'a Jew or Mahometan or that he does not believe in the christian religion, he shall not be liable' to pay any tax. *Maryland Gazette*, Jan. 20, 1785, MBSL. It was not, however, until 1798 that the clergy's state was materially bettered by law.

² It had not been deemed necessary that the six vestrymen appointed to every parish should belong to the Church, the only qualifications required being that they should be 'sober and discreet' and should not be of the 'Romish Church.' The fines formerly imposed for non-attendance are evidence of these vestries' callousness toward church interests which this law had tried to reach and correct. A refusal to serve on a vestry, without a good excuse, had formerly entailed a fine of 1000 lbs. of tobacco. See *Parish Institutions in Maryland*, Edward Ingle, in *Magazine of American History*, April, 1883, LC. — See a letter: ' . . . The Press being highly calculated to reform public errors . . . [and the] abuse of Church property and an

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parishioners were lukewarm if not actually inimical toward church affairs, and seeing their ministers living under such privations and even humiliations did not conduce to much respect for the cloth. Aside from the disordered conditions following the war, many of the parishes lacked rectories, in which case unmarried clerics had to lodge and board as they could. To write acceptable sermons, perform services in chapels or churches where there was either, though often out of repair, and travel over well-nigh impassable roads to visit indifferent and widely scattered flocks, when themselves inadequately fed, improperly housed, and insufficiently encouraged, were tests of human nature up to which it is a marvel that so many measured.¹ There was no body of well-established church usage,² and in the face of the growing popularity of other sects,³ notably that of the Methodists, which had split off from the Episcopal parent, Rev., afterward Bishop Claggett, and a devoted band of co-laborers had to build up from the bottom, while not themselves enjoying the benefits of even a minimum wage.⁴

admission of improper men into our Vestries. Next to a proud Parson, what more inconsistent than an *irreligious Vestry*? My next subject will be an Address to every Christian denomination . . . to form something like a National Church . . . [Signed] Philanthropus.' *Maryland Journal*, Jan. 18, 1785, MDHS.

¹ For the variety of privations, see the *Diary of Rev. William Duke, Appendix XV*.

² 'It was not a rare event for a woman to be sexton.' *Parish Institutions in Maryland*, Edward Ingle, in *Magazine of American History*, April, 1883, LC. — 'Pluralities have never been admitted, the colonists being universally against that practice; and to attempt such an innovation, would excite ferments of a dangerous nature.' *Letters from America, Historical and Descriptive . . . 1769-1777, inclusive*, William Eddis, Late Surveyor of the Customs, &c. at Annapolis in Maryland, London 1792, p. 46, NYPL. This is a rose-colored view, due to 'a will to see' what was desired. Many clergymen officiated in more than one parish, notably Dr. Claggett, while at St. James'.

³ Some of the 'best people' remained staunch Roman Catholics, while there was also a body of Presbyterians. In Weems' own county, Anne Arundel, in which he had his initial pastorate, there had been from the first

a curious cross-current of non-conformism, from the fact of its first settlements having been made by 'Puritans' who left Virginia on religious grounds and named their locality Providence. See *Who Were the Early Settlers of Maryland*, Rev. Ethan Allen, 1866, p. 7. — 'The energy of such a hierarchy [as that of the Puritans at Providence, Md.] may be evidently inferred. It not only took cognizance of the minutest deviation from moral deportment, but pervaded even the recesses of thought and mind. Obstinacy, idleness, and "light-carriage" were among the civil offences punishable under their abominable jurisprudence: which they professed to copy from the Mosaic code.' *History of Maryland*, J. L. Bozman, 1811, p. 378, MDHS. — St. James' Parish early had its own tincture of Puritanism, for at a vestry meeting, Aug. 13, 1720, it was 'Order'd that Tho^s. Tucker & Penelope Barwell, make their Appearance before the Vestry, upon Compl^t. made ag^t. them for Too often frequenting one anothers Company. Who accordingly mett and not finding Suff^t Evidence to admonish them this Vestry thought fitt to discharge them.' *Proceedings of St. James' Parish*, p. 115, MDHS.

⁴ Poverty may explain the fact that 'at the General Convention held at Philadelphia, October, 1789, subscribed by Bishops Seabury of

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It is plausible to assume that, under the power newly conferred upon vestries to choose their officiating minister, Weems was appointed to his first Maryland parish through the influence of his wide family connection in the Herring Bay country. The records of his years in this first venture at All Hallows',¹ 1784-1789, are taken from the Notices & Journals of the Protestant Episcopal Conventions in Maryland and are as follows:

First Annual Convention held in 1784. Mason L. Weems, entered as in charge of All Hallows', attended. P. 12.

'In November of that year was chartered the "Corporation for the Relief of the Widows and Children of the Clergy of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Maryland," and in the list of incorporators appears the name of M. L. Weems.' *Acts of Maryland Assembly*. See *Parson Weems*, Lawrence C. Wroth, p. 24.

In 1786 he was similarly recorded among the Clergy of the Diocese.

In 1787, Fourth Annual Convention, Present Mr. Weems. P. 22.

In 1788, Fifth Annual Convention, Present Mason Locke Weems. P. 23.

The records of the Superintending Committee for the Western Shore for May 29, 1788, note: 'Members of this Committee elected in the year 1788 are the Rev^d. Dr. West, the Rev^d. Dr. Claggett, the Rev.^d Mr. Dent, the Rev^d. Mr. Duke and the Rev^d. Mr. Weems. . . .' June 1, 1788: Superintending Committee for Western Shore meet, and allot all of Anne Arundell, except St. James' Parish, to the care of Rev. Mr. Weems. St. James' to Dr. Claggett. 'And whereas, by the allotment it appears that the Rev. Mr. Weems, Mr. Duke and Dr. Claggett have the smallest districts, committed to their care Resolved

Connecticut and White of Pennsylvania, the only delegate from Anne Arundel County, All Hallows' Parish was Mr. Selman, Junr, Lay Delegate.' Rev. Thomas John Claggett, on his election to the Bishopric addressed the clergy as follows: 'The glebes were permitted to run to waste, most of the parsonage houses were in a state of dilapidation, and the parish libraries where any such still remained in the hands of the vestries, had been damaged and diminished. The support of the clergy too was altogether inadequate. The plan that had been usually resorted to was of voluntary subscriptions: of all modes the most precarious. These were decreasing yearly, and even of those that continued, the payment was not always sure. Many of the clergy had actually been obliged to leave the State, and others had been compelled to resort to secular occupations . . . The

clergy were starved.' *Journal of Protestant Episcopal Conventions, Maryland*, NYPL.

¹ Before 1691 there were standing in Anne Arundel County churches both at Herring Creek and South River or All Hallows'. Herring Creek church was built in 1765. The records of St. James' go back to 1695. See *First Parishes in Maryland*, Percy G. Skirven, pp. 106, 108, 119 and 120. Also *The Old Brick Churches of Maryland*, Helen West Ridgeley, p. 84.—'All Hallows celebrates its Two Hundred and Twentieth Anniversary . . . History of Ancient Parish . . . All Hallows . . . like St. Anne's at Annapolis, is one of the oldest of the English parishes in the country. Exactly what year the present church was built is not definitely known, but as it is a circumstance of record that from 1682 to 1690 the Rev. Duel Pead was rector of the parish, it is more than probable that at least as

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that each of those gentlemen, once a year visit Montgomery and Frederick counties.' P. 39. Nov. 25, 1788: 'The Rev. Mr. M. L. Weems informed the committee that he had several times visited his Anne Arundel district, and that he had just then returned from Montgomery and Frederick counties.' P. 41.

At the same convention Rev. Mr. John Weems [*a cousin of Mason's*] requested Dr. Claggett 'to call the Superintending Committee together . . . to recommend him . . . to Bishop White for Priest's Orders. . . . Rev. Mason L. Weems and the Rev. Dr. Claggett met . . . but not being a majority, and for other reasons they adjourned.' P. 39. When they met later on Nov. 25 they gave him 'a testimonium.' P. 40.

In 1789 Weems was again on the Superintending Committee. Feb. 12, 1789, 'Mr. Truman March having applied to the . . . Committee for recommendation for holy orders . . . present The Rev^d. Dr. Claggett The Rev^d. Mr. Weems The Rev^d. Mr. Duke, who after examination recommended him as follows: viz. . . . do verily believe him to be a young Gentleman well attached to the Doctrine Discipline and form of worship of our church. . . .' In this year, 'Mason Weems' was one of the signers of the Church Constitution for Maryland. P. 37.

At Easter 1790 Weems attended the Convention, although there is no certainty that he was still connected with All Hallows'.¹ He was not reelected to the Superintending Committee.

Aside from the poverty of the parish,² All Hallows' offered peculiar difficulties. Placed thus in the very midst of his cousins, their sisters and their

early as then there was some place of worship . . . There is a legend that the original building was partly destroyed by fire about 1794, but restored shortly after that . . . About 1825 . . . marked changes in the interior . . . were made . . . and . . . in 1885 the building was further changed . . . by a thorough repairing both inside and outside . . . The ancient bell [*is dated 1727*]. The records . . . 1773 to 1779 seem to have been lost or destroyed . . . but the oldest parish register . . . 1700 [*is still extant*]. There seem to have been at least thirty-one rectors . . . during the 200 years, for which the line can be traced . . . Rev. Duel Pead, 1682-1690 . . . Rev. William Hanna, 1779-1784. Rev. Mason Locke Weems, 1784-1790 or 1791.' [*Anon.*] *Advertiser-Republican*, Oct. 17, 1912, EPFL. In 1792 Rev. Walter McPherson succeeded Weems as rector.

¹ 'About 1790, the vestry of Christ Church, Alexandria, of which Washington was a vestryman, voted to authorize the rector, Rev. Bryan Fairfax, to employ as an assistant the Rev. Mason L. Weems, or any other man he chose. Although he failed to secure this position. . . .' Walter B. Norris, in the *Nation*, 1918.

² All Hallows' was secondary to St. James', in the same parish, and was in a more decaying condition when neighboring London-town, once so promising, lost ground cumulatively to Annapolis. The Report on Parishes records: 'All-Hallows' Parish, Anne Arundel County — Have no other property but a small glebe of 167 1/4 acres, which rents for £ 32 per year. By order of the Vestry John Jacobs, Register.' P. 37.

aunts, no prophet, even if divinely inspired, could hope to win honor in a country of so much consanguinity.

The duties exacted, the example demanded ¹ and the salary paid or promised were as far asunder as the poles.² For Weems, with his mercurial nature, to have satisfied alike his parishioners, his brothers in Christ and his own temperament seems an insoluble problem. That he gave of his best, in zeal, in earnestness and energy is seen in *Rev. William Duke's Diary* (see *Appendix XV*).

In 1791 he was appointed to St. Margaret's, Westminster, Anne Arundel County, originally known as Broad Neck. From there he attended the Diocesan Conventions in June, 1791, and May and June, 1792.³ In 1793 his name is not entered as attending, though it is not known whether he severed his connection with St. Margaret's before 1792 or 1793.⁴ The parish had been

¹ Many of the laity being lax in their standards of daily living naturally led to their corresponding demand for strict restraint among the clergy. One instance: 'The Parish in P . . .' hesitated about engaging a man whose preaching satisfied them, because he had been seen to jump over a fence six feet high, and to gallop his horse. On his explaining that he had committed the latter offence to avoid an impending rain, it was 'after profound debates' concluded to engage him, 'with the provision that he should never leap a fence more than four feet in height, except he put his hand upon it, nor gallop his horse, save when an accouchement might be necessary to his family [*sic*].' [Anon.] *Elizabeth-Town Advertiser* (Md.), Feb. 20, 1798, MDHS. This expression of Puritanism makes an interesting contrast to the tolerance during the same century in Great Britain of the hard-riding and deep-drinking parson. — 'That parson knows enough who knows a duke.' [Signed] *Poet*, in *Monthly Magazine*, Vol. LII, NYPL.

² The following helps to show the parlous state of the clergy, even some years after Weems had left his second parish: 'A Clergyman, of the Protestant Episcopal Church, who can come well recommended, will meet with lasting encouragement, in King and Queen Parish, St. Mary's County. Chaptico. 10th June.' *Centinel of Liberty*, June 25, 1799 *et seq.*, LC. Followed by: 'Messrs. Printers. (*Please not to print the following.*) As a friend to religion, and as a member of

the Protestant, Episcopal Church, I am often hurt at the indelicate mode of advertising for a clergyman, pretty much in the same style that Tobacco Planters use in advertising for an overseer. In your last paper, it is said, that "one *who can come well recommended*, will meet with lasting encouragement in — Parish, — County." Here is a strong insinuation, that the parish have suffered by a pastor of a different character — an insinuation that, in my judgment, ought from tenderness to the cloth to have been suppressed. A material part of the information too is omitted; I mean the amount of salary. Certainly, if he is to be paid no better than some others, he will not receive his reward in *this* world — not in *time* but in *eternity*. I suspect, therefore, that instead of "*lasting*," the vestry mean "*everlasting*." I am a *poor preacher*. P. S. To make the advertisement complete there should have been the following N.B. None but a sober, honest man need apply, and to prevent higgling, the salary will be 200 dollars per annum.' *Ibid.*, Aug. 13, 1799 *et seq.*, LC.

³ *Ms. Report of the Diocese of Maryland*, Rev. Ethan Allen, 1873, MDIO'NL in PIL.

⁴ Mr. Wroth, in *Parson Weems*, p. 36, says that by Sept. of 1792 he had given up Westminster Parish. [See *Maryland Gazette*, Apr. 21, 1785, and Sept. 11, 1788, MDSTL.] Rev. William Hanna had immediately preceded Weems both at All Hallows' and St. Margaret's, but did not long outlive the rigors undergone, dying in 1786.

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already in a languishing state, special efforts having been made to pay debts due Rev. Mr. Magowan, as well as the former incumbent, Rev. William Hanna, for advances from him toward the completion of the Chapel of Ease, and this, to judge by our own day, would have quite dried up the springs of generosity toward his successor. It is not surprising that the latter should have turned to other pursuits to eke out the starveling returns from an impoverished parish, for the old-time word emolument is too rich and toothsome to be used in this connection. He must have felt that his course had given rise to adverse comment, both by other members of the cloth, and by the laity. Book purchasing and vending, he had already found would supply a vent for his teeming energies as well as much-needed monetary returns.

APPENDIX XII

SOUTH RIVER CLUB

This 'Club House near All Hallows Church still stands and has taken on a new life. Its founders are no longer known, but there is a record of a deed, dated 1740, . . . confirming a previous transaction between the "Society" . . . called the South River Club. . . . A new club house was built in 1742, and from that date a list of members has been preserved. . . . There is a tradition that its organization occurred prior to 1700. . . . Members recorded, Rev. Mason Locke Weems, 1785; John Weems, 1785; John B. Weems, 1810; Franklin Weems, . . .' *Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland*, J. D. Warfield, 1905, pp. 199-202, MDHS. Of the monthly meeting in June, the next following that in May at which Weems was admitted, there is the entry 'Then served the Revd. Mason Weems agreeable to rule', which meant that each newcomer took charge of the entertainment. Outside this demand the club dues at that time appear to have been three shillings ninepence annually. Of another meeting in July, 1786, we read: ' . . . the following question proposed by the Revd. Mason L. Weems for public discussion was brought forward: Is not the use of Spirituous Liquors, except in cases of Ill Health, an idle and unnecessary practice.'

He appears to have resigned in November, 1787, though — contrary to custom — not acting as outgoing host to the club until its December meeting. *Minutes of the South River Club*, MDHS.

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APPENDIX XIII

WEEMS' SCHOOL

' . . . Became Rector of All Hallow's Parish, Anne Arundel [Co.] and had a Female Seminary.' *Clergy of Maryland*, Rev. Ethan Allen, p. 16, LC.

For corroboration of this I have searched vainly, both in the press and in local histories. If Weems did open such a school, it does not seem irrelevant to suppose that it may have led up to the following advertisement, for no man would seem to have been less fitted for a pedagogic career than he:

'Anne-Arundel county, September 9, 1788. MUCH WANTED, In the neighborhoods near London-town,¹ a SCHOOLMASTER that is well acquainted with the proper method of teaching children to read, write and cypher. Any person in want of such employment may be informed who to apply to by waiting on the Printer. N.B. No one need apply unless he can come well recommended for his sobriety, and close attention to his pupils.'

Maryland Gazette, Sept. 11, 1788, MDSTL.

Whatever his own disqualifications, Weems strongly felt the need of giving education to all, as may be seen throughout his writings, whether published or private.² He preached such doctrines in season and out. As to the slim equipment given to girls of that time, there is abundant testimony in the following advertisements, nor were such limited to the southern country.

In an announcement of a school in Baltimore: 'N.B. Mrs. Deaver will likewise teach the little Misses in several kinds of *Needle Work*.' *Maryland Journal*, Mar. 10, 1786, LC. Again: 'A SCHOOL. The citizens of Annapolis

¹ London-town, about three miles from All Hallows'.

² 'As proof that such hellish tragedies would never have been acted had our state but been enlightened, only let us look at the people of New-England. — From Britain their fathers had fled to America for religion's sake. Religion had taught them that God created men to be *happy*; that to be happy they must have *virtue*; that virtue is not to be attained without *knowledge*, nor knowledge without *instruction*, nor public instruction without *free schools*, nor free schools without *legislative order*.' *Life of Marion*, 1818, p. 243. — A contemporary wrote: 'Remarks on Female Politicians. As an admirer of

the female sex, and tremblingly alive to everything that affects their character, I have presumed of late, to censure several females of my acquaintance for their love of politics. They listened with admirable attention to all I thought proper to say on the subject.' *New Jersey Journal*, June 23, 1801, NJHS. Thus did one watchful guardian forestall what Rev. Charles Wharton called 'a Pandemonium of Democracy,' or Miss Janet Schaw 'a most disgusting equality.' The geography of 'the fair and delicate creatures' minds was to be as strictly oriented and limited as that of their conduct. Of this particular inanity no trace is found in Weems.

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are respectfully informed, that a school is opened at the house of Mr. RANDALL, for the TUITION of YOUNG LADIES in the useful and ornamental qualifications of the NEEDLE, together with READING and WRITING in the most approved method. A FRENCH MASTER of ability, will attend those pupils who are sufficiently advanced in the English tongue, to instruct them in FRENCH, being a polite accomplishment, and at present an important part of education.' *Maryland Gazette*, Apr. 3, 1794 *et seq.*, MDHS.

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REV. THOMAS JOHN CLAGGETT

As Mr. Wroth remarks, Weems would seem to have been one of those persons born and bred unto the special mortifying of their Bishops' souls. In 1780 Rev. Thomas John Claggett, later to be Maryland's first Bishop,¹ was officiating every other Sunday, at St. James', Herring Creek,² and Weems thus became his direct associate from the latter part of 1784. The following throws light on their divergent views:

Rev. Thomas John Claggett to Rev. W. West ³

MdDio'nL. in PIL.

'Aug. 22, 1788.

DEAR and REV^d. SIR, Your kind letter by Mr. Burgis came safe to my Hands on Sunday night last, It rained very hard all day y^e Monday & on Tuesday I set out with y^e inclosed to Calvert, & send it by a Boy to M^{rs}. Bond & was happy to find by y^e return of y^e Messenger y^t. both y^e Ladies were well — I understand from y^e Ladies y^t. y^e. Letter to M^{rs}. Bond was addressed to her by your-self, & I only admire how well you can write two different Hands —

¹ Elected at the convention at Annapolis May 31, 1792, and consecrated Bishop at Trinity Church, Sept. 17, following. It will thus be seen that his relation toward Weems was not one of authority, but of pastoral brotherhood.

² He agreed to do so for three years, and in 1789 there were subscriptions taken at St. James' for the clergyman. For accounts of

St. James' Parish Church see *Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties*, J. D. Warfield, 1905, p. 219, MDHS., and *Old Brick Churches of Maryland*, Helen West Ridgeley, pp. 65-67, MDHS.

³ Also printed partially in *Parson Weems*, by Lawrence C. Wroth.

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By one of y^e. Rules entered into at Baltimore I think we are bound to correspond with one another respecting y^e. affairs of y^e. Church; in this Situation I think it my Duty to advise with you respecting an Affair that gives me no small uneasiness. It is briefly this, our friend Mr. Mason Weemss [*sic*] since y^e breaking up of the Convention has adopted a Line of Conduct that I fear will be greatly prejudicial to y^e Church; he has I understand introduced y^e Methodists Hymns & Tunes in y^e publick Service. The other Day I saw him at Annapolis He told me that a Methodist (please to turn over) Preacher had informed him that there were a Number of People wavering that wished to join their Society but were withheld by thinking it disgracefull to make a profession of Methodism & entreated him to preach in their Meeting House to give weight, credit, & Sanction to y^e Methodist Religion. Mr. Weems informed me further that in his Opinion as a Preacher of y^e Gospel he had no right to refuse this Invitation; but as an older Minister he requested my Opinion on y^e Case as thus stated. I gave him a decided Opinion against his doing of it at least on y^t principles together with some of my Reasons; But when I found I had prevailed nothing with him, I requested that as his own Character, the Interest of y^e Church, & y^e Situation of all his Neighbouring Ministers would be materially affected by such a step, I begged that he would postpone y^e execution of his design untill he saw me again, & we should, have farther Conversation on y^e Subject to this he assented in positive terms, notwithstanding which (I understand) a few Days after at a Quarterly Meeting in y^e City of Annapolis he exhibited in their Pulpit to y^e no small triumph of their Party. His Conduct (I verily believe) has materially affected y^e. Interest of our Church in this Quarter & I [*illegible*] supposed that should his Example be followed by one or two of our Ministers; that very speedily two or three Parishes will be entirely lopped off from our Church. In this View it is a very serious Consideration & I wish you would consider it maturely, & give me a decided Opinion upon it. I confess it is a very disagreeable Subject to address you on, & gives me pain to do it I have a regard for Mr Weems his Zeal & Attention to y^e Duties of his sacred Office merit esteem; but in proportion as this Zeal, & Diligence are applied to the Methodist Interest it weakens us — You will be so kind as to consider how such a Line of Conduct as I have stated above squares with our Canons & Rules & let y^e whole matter rest with your self untill you hear farther from dear Sir Your most affectionate Friend & Br^o.

THO^s. JN^o. CLAGGETT.'

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The above strictures redound to the credit of Weems' warmth of heart, if not to the coolness and shrewdness of his head. The fact that the Methodists had been originally a part of the Anglican Church made their great success as a separate body all the more galling.¹ But from our modern viewpoint, Dr. Claggett might better have stressed Weems' irresponsibility toward his pledge rather than his lack of that sectarian clannishness, which was too prevalent. None the less, those times did not lend themselves to any further relinquishing of the church's prerogative, already so undermined by 'the frozen unconcern which pervade[s] many parishes . . .', and his 'Address' revealed her great needs, when 'not a few of her temples [*bad*] become a shelter for the bat, the swallow, and the owl.'²

It is significant that Weems' name is not given in Sprague's *Annals of the American Pulpit*, showing that Rev. Ethan Allen and Rev. William B. Sprague considered him as practically out of the clerical profession. This shows clearly their sectarian slant. As Paul L. Ford stated: 'It is a strong bit of contemporary color to find preaching and book-peddling not incongruous callings, and to find Baptist, Methodist and other pulpits open to this Episcopalian.' And Bishop Meade says of Weems, in *Old Churches, Ministers and Families of Virginia*: 'He was of a very enlarged charity in all respects. Though calling himself an Episcopalian minister, he knew no distinction of churches.'

A further comment on Weems was sent to Claggett after he became Bishop:

Rev. Abraham Beach to Rev. Thomas John Claggett.³

'hon^d. by
Rev^d. M^r. Weems.

MdDio'nL. in PIL.

New York 20th Feby 1794.

R^t. REVEREND & DEAR SIR, The Return of the Rev^d. M^r. Weems to Maryland affords me an Opportunity of acknowledging the Receipt of your Favour by M^r Montague — the want of Direct Conveyances to your Part of the Country, prevents my writing to you often, for next to conversing with a friend, is the Pleasure of writing to him. —

M^r Weems informs me he intends to publish a Volume of Sermons under the Title of *the American prot^e. Episcopal Preacher* — the Plan, which he

¹ Leesburg, Dec. 17, 1775: 'Went to hear Bombast, Noise and Nonsense, uttered by a Methodist and an Anabaptist preacher.' *Journal of Nicholas Cresswell*, New York, 1924, p. 133, LC.

² *The Convention . . . in the State of Maryland, to the Vestries and other Members*, Baltimore, 1794, p. 6, NYPL.

³ Also printed in *Parson Weems*, by Lawrence C. Wroth.

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will have an Opportunity to present to you in person, is, I think, a good one — & [I] cannot but wish him success.

The State of the Church in this Quarter is much as it was, the only material Alteration that has taken place, is the Erection of a new Church in this City for Mr. Pilmore [?], by a Number of Families dissatisfied with the Call of our fourth Minister. — it is a disagreeable Circumstance, & at present is the Cause of Uneasiness among us, but I hope, *he* who can produce Order out of Confusion, & Harmony out of Discord, will finally overrule our present Disturbances to his Honor & the Good of his Church. . . .

Your ever affectionate Friend

ABR^m. BEACH.’

Weems’ trip to New York in 1794 was undoubtedly on book business, and so far as I have been able to discover, he never issued the book mentioned in this letter.

APPENDIX XV

REV. WILLIAM DUKE

That Weems toiled zealously during the earlier of the nine years of his Maryland ministry could be taken for granted, even if we had no contemporary evidence. That sad-hued divine, Rev. William Duke, frequently mentions his neighbor and co-laborer of the Western shore in his *Diary*. Duke had begun his ministry at the age of sixteen as an itinerant exhorter of Methodism in Pennsylvania and Maryland.¹ The two men were of totally different metal, Duke having a fear of all joyous things which was fairly Puritanical, while Weems throughout his life sought and evoked merriment. Yet the graver parson evidently liked and enjoyed his volatile brother of the cloth and did justice to his aims even when clearly seeing his failings in taste, judgment or procedure. Weems, in turn, helped and encouraged Duke in getting his writings printed, and together they sometimes travelled over their large districts, at times exchanging pulpits.

¹ ‘This movement’ of Duke’s to ‘travel to the west to assist, so far as he might in planting and spreading religion and learning, it is believed, was the first ever made in the Episcopal Church in Domestic Missions, to aid our Western Country.’ *Annals of the American Pulpit*,

Ethan Allen, edited by William B. Sprague, pp. 310-311, LC. Several men (John Coleman and others) were itinerant preachers of the Methodist Society before that body separated from the Episcopal Church in 1784, when they chose to remain in the Church and be ordained.

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It is significant that between 1787 and 1808, when the *Diary* ends,¹ Duke writes about Weems in all sixty-five times, yet nowhere is Duke ever mentioned in Weems' letters. Below are given the chief entries relating to the latter, which throw sidelights of interest and suggestiveness. Among them are included certain jottings to prove under what grievous conditions of hardship, discouragement and even humiliation the ministry of Maryland of that day was obliged to carry on. Duke, like many others, opened a school at St. Paul's in Prince George's County² to eke out his meagre stipend, married, lost his wife shortly after, and lived out his modest, dutiful, over-conscienced life remaining always what Rev. Samuel Davies called 'a painful unwearied minister.'³ His books consisted of a volume of verse — *Hymns and Poems*, 1790, — which followed and preceded minor works of grave import, typical of his time, such as *Thoughts on Repentance*, 1789, and *Thoughts on Education*, 1795.

Like many another unduly serious person, he unwittingly provides humor in his revelations.

Jan. 5, 1787. 'Crossed South-River with Difficulty the Wind blowing very hard and as I passed Mr. W's Church met him coming out. It seems he preaches every other Friday for the Benefit of the Negroes A charitable Attempt. I hope it will be successful. At his Request I promised to preach for him on the Sunday following. . . .'

Jan. 7, 1787. 'Rode according to promise to Mr. Weems' Church where I preached to an agreeable Congregation. . . .'

Jan. 9, 1787. 'Rode to Mr. Davises with Mr. Weems. The Family was plain kind and agreeable. . . .'

Jan. 11, 1787. 'Rode to Miss N—son's. Had some serious Conversation with Mr. W—— on the Subject of Amusement with Respect to its Design and Influence on the Health. We agreed in general But I could not yield to the Maxim of assuming the Complexion and entering into the Spirit of whatever Company you happen in. I observed that such is the general corruption of Mankind that we cannot adhere to the Example of Christ without making ourselves singular and that the Manners of the World even in Things indifferent are inconsistent with the Simplicity and Circumspection of a Christian. We exchanged our Sentiments with Candor, and finally agreed to act upon the [*wonted?*] Principles of Reason and Religion'

Jan. 15, 1787 riding 'about a dozen miles to marry Mr. M—— When I

¹ Some years are missing.

³ Letter to Dr. Doddridge, Oct. 2, 1750, in

² *Annals of the American Pulpit*, Ethan Allen, edited by William B. Sprague, p. 310, LC. *Papers of the History of the Church in Virginia*, William Stevens Perry, 1870, p. 368, NYPL.

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arrived . . . Capt. T—— introduced and treated me with all imaginable politeness . . . the alacrity of' whose 'attentions obliged me almost unawares, and furnished every civility that my situation required, with a promptitude that precluded all care about myself. He told me that the couple wished to be joined with as little ceremony as the case would admit of, and shortly afterward, the candles being lighted, they presented themselves for the sanction of the nuptial rites. There was no professed matter of diversion exhibited but the card table at which they seemed surprised that I refused to make a party — However they engaged in the conflict of the pasteboards, with a perseverance that sadly interfered with my repose. I went to bed but could not exclude the noise. Of course I rested very imperfectly. . . . The forenoon . . . after a series of trifling, in which I was glad to find that they could make themselves easy without swearing, the dinner table was set . . . & as I am not capable of attending to many things at once, I know but little that past besides the allaying of an appetite that never slights occasions of that kind. . . . As many as chose . . . were called to order by the sound of the fiddle. I was a spectator . . . pleased by the music and the corresponding motions of those who resigned themselves to its influence. Provided they had no illicit intention I could no more blame them for so natural an indulgence of their feelings than for the emotions of pleasure produced by the singing of birds. . . . Their mirth was sometimes wrought up to such a pitch of turbulence, that I could consider it only as an animal fermentation, and scarcely more entertaining to a rational mind than the rattling confusion of a tempest. In such a case I was surprised rather than pleased. Such violent agitations are certainly injurious to the severity and rectitude of the mind. . . . The music affects them all . . . by the modulations of sound or certain regular and harmonious agitations of the air, as the medium of sympathy between the human soul and a tortured catgut. . . . From the quaintness of the jig, to the formality of the minuet I recognized a succession of airs that . . . are not to be distinguished in language. — After all I could very freely have dispensed with the entertainment for a good nights rest. The next morning I was informed before I was up that another couple was expected within an hour and 1/2 for whom I waited . . . after their business was dispatched I set out with two of the company. . . . They were so volatile that I could seldom get within speaking distance of them.'

Feb. 2, 3, 4, 1787. 'Rode to Church and preached. — Very cold. However I spoke with freedom . . . Afterward went to warm at a Poor Man's House near the Church where an old Woman introduced her Information by

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saying that she always spoke plain to everybody and then told me that a good many of the people did not like my preaching without a Book it was so much like the Methodists.'

Feb. 5, 1787. ' . . . How many Families in this Part of the Country are impoverished by idle Diversions and the Affectation of fashionable Life. Labour is so entirely confined to the Negroes that many People whose Circumstances require Industry seem to dread it as a Matter of Disgrace. . . . '

Feb. 12, 1787. 'With Reluctance set out and with painful Uneasiness rode about 30 Miles to Major L—d—n's . . . Whilst I stop'd there to dine attended to a Conversation concerning Ministers and their Congregations. One was mentioned who persisted to preach to a People that would neither compensate his Services nor treat him with good Manners. In short they construed his perseverance into a selfish Obstinacy for they say it is only to hinder them from employing another Clergyman. And thus if he insists upon an adequate Maintenance he is charged with Avarice and if he does not he is insulted as pusillanimous or hypocritical. Upon the whole a Minister of the Gospel ought to know the Ground he stands on and having determined the proper Line of Conduct to pursue it without any Respect to the Humours of Men.'

Mar. 1, 1787. 'Rode to the Church to meet the Vestry but there was not a sufficient Number to do anything — They appointed another Meeting a Fortnight hence and thus I'm kept in Suspense.'

Mar. 15, 1787. 'Got to Mr. W——s to late Dinner. Was happy in Conversation with my Friend if rightly so called.'

Mar. 19, 1787. 'Rode to Nottingham to meet the Vestry. I contracted with them but vestry Contracts are seldom performed. I have undertaken to preach a Year in the Parish.'

Mar. 21, 1787. ' . . . My Business now is to get Board which seems difficult enough.'

Mar. 23, 1787. 'Exercised about half an hour at the Plough. What a Blessing of Providence that Man's Health and Subsistence are both secured by the same Means!'

[*The Diary is lacking from April 6, 1787 to July 2, 1789.*]

July 6, 1789. 'I was pretty dull and unmeaning during the afternoon.'

July 11, 1789. ' . . . In the evening some young ladies went to Methodist meeting and by their report next morning it was a curiosity of confusion and disorder. Their expressions were too absurd not to say impious to be repeated.'

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July 20, 1789. 'I rode about 5 miles further and put up at a very poor man's house. I baptised his child and he considered himself so much obliged that he would accept of no pay for my lodging. But I nevertheless pay for it with a head-ach the infallible consequence of interrupted rest.'

July 23, 1789. 'I arrived in Morgan's Town abot dusk. It is so new that they have scarcely cut the stumps out of the streets.'

July 29, 1789. 'I lodged in a log-pen. It will be a house I suppose when the roof is on. I also lodged in the same bed with 2 men and 2 boys. Though my situation was ridiculous the inconvenience was too serious to laugh at.'

July 30, 1789. '. . . My road was an obscure path in which I creeped through the bushes hobbled over stones and toiled up many a wearisome hill and to complete the irksomeness of my condition the rain poured upon me for several hours together. — What glad tidings was the cow-bell. It suggested the comfortable persuasion that I was near some human habitation. 20 miles without a vestige of human residence!'

Aug. 1, 1789. 'Set out early and travelled about 12 miles of the worst road that ever I saw. . . . I could not help observing the tyrannical manner of a backwoods husband. As their wives are in fact their drudges they speak to them as other people speak to servants.'

Aug. 2, 1789. '. . . Whilst I am sitting by the fire making these notes the Blacksmith is at work at the other end of the same room which is not very large to fasten my horse's shoes. Had the honour to lodge in the same small room with the family which is pretty numerous. If they had deviated from nature so far as to give less quarter to the fleas and dirt it might be more agreeable to strangers.'

Aug. 7, 1789. '. . . I may not have discovered the mysteries of criticism, but I wish to be on good terms with common sense.'

Aug. 9, 1789. 'Heard M^r. W—— preach in the forenoon — If I know anything of my own heart I wish well to the spirit and power of religion but was by no means pleased with that method of working up of the passions that pays no respect either to reason or decency. A certain pitch of voice or rather vociferation with but now and then a distinguishable word of correspondent horror raised the storm probably rather by sympathy than by rational concern. But whether there be more smoak or fire I am persuaded Christ is glorified and I therein do rejoice and will rejoice. Religion with some irregularity is better than no religion at all.'

Aug. 19, 1789. '. . . Met with the Rev^d. M^r. Weems going to Bath.'

June 8, 1790. 'At breakfast [*at the Wood Yard?*] we conversed about the

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duties of ministers and the difficulty of reforming the people. The Rev^d. M. Weems was mentioned and the dislike and disapprobation that he meets with — As he is chiefly remarkable for his zeal and industry I could not help attributing the opposition generally to that diabolical spirit which is enmity against God.’

June 25, 1790 [?]. ‘Sent Henry on Prayer to M^r. W.—’

July 15, 1790. ‘The Rev^d M. Weems came in the afternoon with whom I rode to the Wood Yard. M^{rs} M[ar]tin lively but conversed religiously. The family to prayers. I thought W——s exhortation tedious but thank God I was in a comfortable state of mind. . . .’

July 16, 1790. ‘Returned to Marlboro’ M^r. W—— preached in the Ball-room. . . .’

July 18, 1790. ‘. . . rode to Marlboro’ but the rain prevented the congregation . . .’

Nov. 4, 1790. ‘Rode to M^r. Caleb Dorsey’s. . . . Rev^d. M^r. Weems came late in the night.’

Nov. 5, 1790. ‘We rode before breakfast to D^r. Pue’s — A good many young ladies. Thence to old M^{rs}. Davis’ where we both spoke to the people. The old woman’s son Eli interrupted us several times. I was sorry that M^r. Weems took so much pains to satisfy him as it only made him more petulant. . . .’

Nov. 6, 1790. ‘Rode to Caleb Dorsey’s in the evening and met with M^r. Weems. — troubled with a bad cold.’

Nov. 7, 1790. ‘Rode to church — preached for M^r. W—— and administered the sacrament jointly.’

Nov. 21, 1790. ‘Much cause of thankfulness and self-abasement.’

Dec. 11, 1790. ‘. . . Feel frail and faulty. — In the afternoon from a motive of good will (I think) I told M^r W.— of something that I blamed in him. — He seemed to take it well. To amuse the family read more about the Pelew Islands. . . .’

Dec. 12, 1790. ‘. . . M^r. W set out for Annapolis.’

Dec. 13, 1790. ‘At night read more about the Pelew Islands.’

Dec. 15, 1790. ‘The Pelew Islands made the evening amusement again.’

Dec. 30, 1790. ‘I rode over to Col. Weems [*probably John of Calvert County*]. — Was treated kindly and rested well.’

Jan. 1, 1791. ‘. . . M^r. O Kelley and Capt. Reimond [?] came in the evening and by the condition they were in somewhat disconcerted the family. With much ado I had prayers.’

Feb. 17, 1791 [?]. ‘. . . In a dispute with M^r. W—— about card-playing

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I observed that I never knew a religious person to play at cards, and gave what I thought a sufficient reason.'

Feb. 19, 1791. '. . . I find myself giving in to a jocular humour. The effect seems favourable to my health but God forbid that I should dishonour my profession on any account.'

Mar. 29, 1791. '. . . Met with the Rev^d. M. Weems at M^r. Cromwells.'

Mar. 30, 1791. 'Felt the chagrin of a disappointed author. I hope I shall never be so imprudent as to let either my peace or my maintenance depend upon the caprice of the multitude. . . .'

Apr. 25, 1791. 'Col. Deakin went to church to meet the Trustees and congregation on business of consequence to religion. The question was whether the[y] should continue to employ a minister who frequently gets beastly drunk? The trustees in the negative but the greater part of the people in the affirmative. . . . I ventured to laugh at the drollery of Hudibras.'

May 10, 1791. '. . . The Rev^d. M^r. Weems came in the evening.'

May 11, 1791. '. . . A good deal of talk with M^r. Weems. He drives Jehu-like.'

May 24, 1791 [?]. 'Walked over to Mount Airy. . . . Returned. M^r. W—— very unhappy.'

May 28, 1791. '. . . I read & slept a little in the afternoon and then went over to Col. Weems's. M^{rs}. Weems unwell.'

May 29, 1791. 'Returned to Col. Weems's. Experienced an oblivious sort of stupor.'

June 7, 1791. 'Went to Marlboro' and heard M^r. Weems preach — We dined at M^r. Craufurd's. . . . Bought Hervey's Meditations of M^r. Weems. . . .'

July 27, 1791. '. . . to M^r. Cromwell's where I met with M^r. Weems and breakfasted. . . . Settled with M^r. Weems about the Hymn books.'

Feb. 22, 1792. 'Col. M[ackubin?] rode to Town with me. I there fell in with the Rev^d. M^r. Weems.'

June 1, 1792. 'Walked into the country and lodged with M^r. Weems and M^r. Coleman.'

June 2, 1792. 'Subscribed to Weems's proposals for 2 books and paid 1/10. . . . Received 5 little books of Mr. Weems. . . . Detained in Convention longer than I wished. Paid my bill 18/6 and came out again to lodge with Weems.'

June 3, 1792. '. . . Proceeded laboriously to M^r. Cromwells where I met with M^r. Weems again.'

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June 4, 1792. 'Mr. Weems and myself crossed the ferry after breakfast.'

June 29, 1792. ' . . . feel anxious to form a matrimonial connexion but my way is by no means clear. — The frequent showers after so long a drought are most grateful. . . . I see Weems' publication on *Onania* is in a good many hands. I am afraid as a matter of diversion than serious consideration.'

June 30, 1792. ' . . . Went on with not much fatigue to Mr. Cromwell's where I dined. Weems has incurred a good deal of ridicule as well as serious blame by his odd publication.'

July 12, 1792. 'We [*Dr. Claggett and himself*] went to dine in the swamp. . . . On our return we found somebody had taken our canoe in consequence of which we waited awhile at Capt. Deal's, but the D^{rs} never failing vein of narrative reconciled us to the detention.'

Sept. 7, 1792. 'Received another parcel of my Salary from the Vestry, which including what I received from Mr. Buck some time ago amounted to £7. . . .'

Sept. 9, 1792. 'Preached with a mediocrity of utterance to a large congregation.'

Sept. 10, 1792. 'Got to town very unwell. . . . Company — confusion — the D^r. &c.'

Sept. 15, 1792. 'This day I am 35 years old. . . . Set out in the rain through a bad road and a long one too to Mr. Coleman's. I was fearful that by getting wet I should bring on my fever again. We arrived a little before 12 o'clock. — A small congregation — After drying myself I preached a funeral sermon for Mr. Coleman's youngest child.'

Sept. 16, 1792. ' . . . Whatever happiness is piety is its foundation.'

Oct. 4, 1792. ' . . . The Rev^d. Mr. Weems dined with us. I walked some distance with him as he proceeded. . . . A sad hurly burly in the evening amongst the voters.'

Oct. 22, 1792. ' . . . When I escape as it were from company to retirement I conceive myself like a ship got into harbour happy in surviving the dangers of the seas, tho' not without damage from their usual Turbulence.'

Nov. 1, 1792. 'Mr. Weems called on me in the afternoon. I rode with him as far as Mr. Carnan's and spent the evening with some satisfaction but did not rest well.'

Nov. 22, 1792. 'Mr. Weems called on me — I took a long and agreeable walk with him. — A snowy afternoon.'

Dec. 8, 1792. ' . . . I thank God that my spirits flow as well as ebb.'

Dec. 10, 1792. 'Busy a fitting up a stable for my horse.'

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Jan. 3, 1793. 'I bottomed a chair with flags. Composed a few stanzas in the evening.'

Feb. 23, 1793. '. . . Returned to Elkton and heard that Mr. Weems passed thro' in my absence.'

Mar. 29, 1793. '. . . dined at Col. Rumsey's where Mr. Weems fell in with us to whom I paid 9/4 — finally went home.'

Apr. 13, 1793. '. . . Mr. Weems lodged with me — He took 18 of my pamphlets with him.'

May 22, 1793. '. . . Got to Chester Mill in the evening. — Found the tavern to be a queerly constructed old house dirty and dark and crouded with people. What added to my chagrin was that the spirit of gambling which actuated them was likely to prevail too much for my resting among them. With this notion I walked out to get a bed and got one but as if no place was exempt from the outrages of intemperance I got no sleep until mere weariness shut my eyes against the boisterous imprecations of the drunkards below-stairs.'

May 24, 1793. 'The B^d. [*Claggett*] called and breakfasted with us. I attended the Committee and reported to the Convention. Received a letter from Mr. Weems.'

June 1, 1793. '. . . Rev^d. Mr. Weems called upon us and went on to Wilmington.' [*Duke had been married on May 28.*]

Sept. 3, 1793. '. . . Mr. Weems arrived in the evening.'

Sept. 4, 1793. 'Rode to the Landing early — exchanged some books 40 pamphlets with Mr. Weems.'

Dec. 10, 1793. 'In the afternoon offered Mr. Weems's subscription papers for reprinting Burket [*sic*] to several people.'

Dec. 22, 1793. '. . . Mr. Weems had called, and left a letter for me.'

Feb. 3, 1794. '. . . Mr. Weems called upon us. I contracted with him for printing my hymns and advanced him 30 dollars.'

Feb. 8, 1794. '. . . Wrote to Mr. Weems.' [*Opposite Apr. 7, 1794, is the following, which possibly refers to Weems.*] 'Imperavis adsint. Carmina mea adhuc premuntur quasi blattis lineisque reservata. Amicus ille noster in culpa est. Nisi observantior se praebeat fortasse non objurgationem se expers evadet.' *Translation*: 'You have ordered that they be present. Up to this time my songs [*or poems*] are held, saved in leaves and lines. That friend of ours is at fault. Unless he shows himself more observant perhaps he, having no part, will [*not?*] escape reproof.'

Nov. 10, 1794. '. . . When I returned home I was informed that Mr. Weems had passed along. I wrote to him.'

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- Nov. 22, 1794. ' . . . Received a letter from Mr. Weems.'
- Nov. 28, 1794. 'Rode into Wilmington, — Spoke to the Printer to print my proposals.'
- Jan. 23, 1795. 'Mr. Weems called and repaid me the money that I had advanced.'
- May 20, 1795. 'Went into Wilmington — Saw Mr. Weems — Paid Adams 11" 5" 0. and received 600 copies of my book.'
- May 21, 1795. 'Corrected a number of copies of my pamphlet.'
- May 22, 1795. 'Left 25 copies of my pamphlet in Mackey & Sherer's store and 12 in Partridge's. Wrote to Mr. Weems.'
- June 17, 1795. ' . . . I gave Mr. Weems and [an] order upon Mr. Keddie the bookseller.'
- Oct. 23, 1795. 'Mr. Weems arrived in the evening.'
- Oct. 24, 1795. 'Mr. Weems took with him 75 of my pamphlets.'
- Nov. 24, 1795. ' . . . I worked about the stable. . . . Found Mr. Weems waiting when I returned.'
- Nov. 25, 1795. 'I wonder at Weems to travel afoot.'
- Nov. 26, 1795. ' . . . Received a letter from Adams notifying that he was near finishing my book.'
- Dec. 6, 1795. 'Went to church. Found no congregation.'
- Jan. 4, 1796. 'Bought some stuff for breeches and some chocalate of Mr. Fulton. Left 6 pamphlets with him 3 of each sort. . . . Settled with Mr. M^c.Beath about the pamphlets that I had left in his store.'
- Apr. 18, 1796. ' . . . Wrote to Mr. Weems.'
- Nov. 4, 1796. ' . . . After considerable detention we embarked for Baltimore. For once we make a passage without swearing.'
- Apr. 5, 1797. 'Engaged Wilson to bind my book at 19 ^{cts}. apiece.'
- Apr. 22, 1797. 'My mare seems disordered perhaps for want of fodder. Rode thro' the neighbourhood to procure some, but in vain.'
- May 16, 1797. 'Set out and met with the Rev^d. Weems on the road [to Marlboro].'
- May 20, 1797. 'Fed my mare at Queen-Anne and dined at Mr. Selman's [?] where I borrowed another of Mr. Weems's books.'
- Dec. 24, 1797. 'The ferries being stopt by the ice I had to ride round the three rivers in order to fulfil my appointment at South-river Church.'
- 'Christmas. I set out and got to church just as the congregation was about to disperse. After preaching I went home with Col. Selman and baptized several children.'

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MATHEW CAREY

By 1792 Weems was already printing and selling others' books. In 1794 he came into direct contact with Mathew Carey, and became, through his activities for him and Caleb P. Wayne, the prime American book agent. With Carey especially his interests dovetailed, and from this year on we read of their consulting, planning, hobnobbing, chaffing,¹ disagreeing — and even quarrelling with an unbridled virulence of language which would have forced a permanent breach between most men and 'made Hell tremble.'² Though Carey had other book agents,³ and though several breaks occurred between him and Weems, when the one believed that he had not been fairly dealt with or when the other was driven to exasperation, no long period ever elapsed when Weems was not travelling for him.

So, despite their asseverations of impatience and wrath, they evidently confided with good reason in each other's honesty.⁴ While Weems' incurable optimism led Carey into some bitter disappointments,⁵ he at times offered him shrewdly wise advice, and also brought him in several cases rich returns.⁶ A note of Paul L. Ford's, for which I have not found the references, says: 'I have seen a letter of Carey's to an author wherein he wrote: "Your book no longer sells, though I have still on my shelves most half the copies printed. I have accordingly given it into the hands of Mr. Weems, who will clear it off

¹ As when Carey wrote to Weems, July 25, 1796, as 'your holiness . . . & your multiship.'

² For only a few references to such passages at arms, see letters of Mar. 10, 1798, Aug. 24, Dec. 28, 1801, June 4, 1802 [*Carey's*], Feb. 26, Aug. 28, 1803, Dec. 6, 1812, Sept. 2, 1813, and Dec. 4, 1817.

³ 'Carey's traveller to Baltimore [1805] received \$10 a week, and charged in his expenses stage hire from Philadelphia to Baltimore, \$8. The Baltimore sales averaged \$150 a week.' *American Book-Trade Bibliography in the XIXth Century*, A. Growoll, New York, 1898, p. xiii, LC.

⁴ Weems to Carey, Apr. 14, 1815: 'To my quid nunc on the 24.000\$ which I paid you from the Georg[i]a sales, you know you added 250\$ — a good proof that I did not even in y^r opinion touch y^r part.'

⁵ Carey had some very lean years, and even

planned to give up his business: *Ad.* 'Books Selling Very Cheap. Mathew Carey, Proposing to quit the Book Selling business, offers his large and valuable Collection of Books for sale . . . Jan. 22.' *Pennsylvania Gazette*, Feb. 13, 1799, AAS. He states in his *Letters* that between 1786 and 1792 he was never possessed at any one time of four hundred dollars. Later Weems' own letters show how pinched Carey often was.

⁶ Weems to Carey, Dec. 26, 1809: 'My hopes are reviv^d when I remember that 3 years ago with a very inferior assortment I sold 3000 Doll^s at 5 or 6 Courts.' See also Mar. 8, 1811. Mar. 15, 1811: 'Taking things *in toto*, I have rec^d in *one year*, say, 16 thousand dollars worth of pretty good books. Of which in *remittances & payments*, I find enter^d nearly 12 thousand dollars cash.'

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if any one can — this will make a difference in your profits, as well as in mine, but should be preferred to no profits at all.” Another author in making a proposition to a publisher wrote: “I hope you will engage Mr. Weems to sell the work in the south.”

To judge merely by their letters we might be tempted to decide that, of the two, Weems was the more exasperating by his loose business methods, especially during the earlier years of their connection. He was more erratic and irresponsible, while perhaps possessing a larger fund of generosity and placability. But it is also only fair to state that Carey often carried a chip on his shoulder where others were concerned and that while never sinking to such low vituperation as the editors Oswald or Cobbett, he held very pronounced opinions and could wield a pen dipped in caustic. Yet proof that his violent diatribes against Weems may not always have been actuated by frenzied wrath is contained in his note on his published letter to Cobbett of Dec. 22, 1798, in reply to an attack upon him by ‘Peter Porcupine’: ‘It has been generally supposed, and with some appearance of justice, that I was in a violent passion when I wrote this letter. This is a great error. Mrs. Carey sat opposite to me, while I was writing; and, as I wrote a dozen or twenty lines, I read them to her, and we burst into a fit of laughter at the extreme severity of the style — after which I resumed my pen.’¹

At all events, the connection between the two men continued, with only slight breaks, for thirty-one years, and outlasted all their mutual recriminations. Both were Celts by kith as well as kin, and when they clashed, almost, as it seems, for the pure joy of it, the welkin rang. Though they rarely agreed, they never failed to appreciate each other’s good qualities, and apparently could not permanently part.

Carey was very much of a man, and his character has yet to be written up adequately. Only through his letters can one make a satisfactory estimate of his temperament and colorful character. The main facts of his career are known.²

¹ *Letters of Mathew Carey in New England Magazine*, Vol. VI, Feb., 1834, pp. 100-101. This controversy had been preceded by Carey’s straightforward overtures to Cobbett, in order to stave off the quarrel that he felt was likely to occur through the bad offices of others. See *ibid.*, pp. 98, 105.

² See monograph by Earl L. Bradsher. Short sketches of him have been found in *Makers of Philadelphia*, edited by Charles Morris, 1894, p. 22, LC.; *Eminent Philadelphians*, Henry Simpson, 1859, p. 175, LC.;

Lives of Celebrated Americans, Benson J. Lossing, Hartford, 1869, pp. 300-302, LC.; *One Hundred Years of Publishing, 1785-1885* [Anon.], Philadelphia, Lea Brothers; *Philadelphia Magazines*, A. H. Smyth, pp. 72-73, LC.; *Early Philadelphia*, H. M. Lippincott, 1917, p. 45, LC.; *History of Literary Philadelphia*, Ellis Paxson Oberholtzer, 1906, p. 339, AAS. For his own account, see *Letters*, M. Carey, Philadelphia, 1829, LC.; also *New England Magazine*, Vol. VI, Feb., 1834, LC.

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Born in Dublin, 1759; at fifteen years of age apprenticed to a printer; his first effort at authorship was on *Duelling*; his earliest political pamphlet (1779) was suppressed by the Irish Parliament, and he escaped to Paris, where he became acquainted with Franklin and Lafayette; returned to Dublin, and became editor of the *Freeman's Journal*; in 1783, with assistance from his father, he established a paper there, *The Volunteers Journal*; was arrested on account of a severe attack on the British Parliament; released soon after, he sailed, in 1784, to America, where he commenced publishing, in Philadelphia, *The Pennsylvania Evening Herald*; fought a duel with Eleazur Oswald. It is stated that the establishment of Carey's firm in 1785 was made possible by a loan, unsolicited by him, from Lafayette, of \$400 which was later repaid. Philadelphia was then our leading city in the book business, but with keen and shrewd competitors Carey could more than measure himself. Besides his activities in the newspaper and magazine world (*The Columbian Magazine* and *The American Museum*), he was an able and enterprising publisher and a prolific and versatile writer on such varied topics as Agriculture, Political Economy, Philanthropy, Labor and the Laboring Classes, Malignant Fevers, Slavery, Internal Navigation, Finance, Commerce, Manufactures, Nullification, Emigration and Immigration, Railroads, on injustices toward Laboring Women, Tariff, Infant Schools, Colonization, Language, Domestic Life, Prisons, Polish affairs, Freemasonry, Cotton raising, Tobacco Culture, Lord Grenville's Treaty, Satirical verse, with occasional letters to the press.

His reputation was wide in the publishing world. He was the main inceptor and president of The Literary Fair in 1802, held regularly for a number of years.

In temperament he was one of those vivid, picturesque human creatures whose daily life is crammed with emotion. Yet a nice balance and moderation were usually exhibited in his relations with others. Though an ardent Roman Catholic, he was in no sense bigoted or intolerant of the creeds of his neighbors. In political matters this fairness of spirit is notably shown in his *Olive Branch or Faults on Both Sides, Federal and Democratic, A serious appeal on the necessity of Mutual Forgiveness & Harmony, to save our Common Country from Ruin*, [Anon.] 1814. Yet his likable quality of sturdy independence is revealed in the following to Rev. Jedidiah Morse, Mar. 18, 1789: ' . . . P.S. If you write to me in future, & make any addition to my name above written, let it be a *pre* instead of a *suffix* — and consist of 2 letters instead of three — to which I have no possible claim. In fact, these three letters (esq.) to a person in my situation and circumstances, fall but little short of an insult, which I am confident you could not have intended.' [L. & F.]

Besides attaining to the position of one of the leading publishers of his time, honors came to him in many forms, well deserved by his public spirit.

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In 1824 he retired from active partnership in his business, which was then in charge of one of his sons, Henry C. Carey, and Isaac Lea, his son-in-law. He died in 1839.

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MARRIAGE AND LIFE AT DUMFRIES

Weems' marriage, July 2, 1795, at what was for that time the advanced age of thirty-five, appears in the nature of an interlude, a brief interjection shot across the main current of his peregrinations. Like many other converts, he showed thereafter an exaggerated zeal, out-heroding Herod in his never-failing preachments on the benefits of matrimony and the 'shameless' unwisdom of bachelorhood.¹ In his *Hymen's Recruiting Serjeant* [No. 1], published, according to his letters, only four years after he had himself tested the efficacy unto righteousness of the married state, he quoted:

"Tis madness sure you must agree
To lodge alone at thirty-three'

thus admitting that he had seen the error of his ways even after having permitted himself two extra years of grace — or disgrace, as by that time he would have averred.

But little is known of his wife Frances, born 1775, died Aug. 28, 1843. She was by sixteen years her husband's junior, a daughter of Col. Jesse Ewell,² a merchant of Dumfries, and one of the proprietors of its warehouse for storing tobacco. The Ewells were of a large and prominent family connection, three of Frances' brothers being Drs. James, Thomas (author of *The Medical Companion*) and Bertrand Ewell.² In that book it is stated that the family was of Welsh origin. Col. Ewell lived at Belle Air, sometimes spelled Bel Air or otherwise, several miles north of Dumfries, and sometime after his death in 1805 this

¹ 'The truth is, though general Lee was extremely splenetic, other than which such a miserable old *bachelor* and *infidel* could hardly be, . . .' *Life of Marion*, 1818, p. 98.

² Hayden states that Frances Ewell Weems' parents were own cousins, the mother being the daughter of Major Bertrand Ewell and Frances (Kenner) Ewell. Col. Jesse Ewell had evidently

been a schoolmate of Jefferson: see the letter from Weems to the latter dated Oct. 14, 1821, *Vol. III.* — 'Dr. Thomas, a distinguished physician of Washington City and author of *Ewell's Family Medicine*' was Fanny Ewell Weems' brother and brother to Dr. James Ewell. 'He studied under Dr. George Graham in Dumfries, who died about 1814 and who was the great

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house was partly taken over by Weems, probably about 1808 or 1809,¹ by mortgages loaned to the widow. It proved to be a heavy incumbrance to him, and what with his rapidly augmenting family, disappointments in some of his book ventures, and his wife's generosity to her kinsfolk, mentioned briefly in his letters, he was for a number of years under financial stress.²

grandfather of Mrs. Jefferson Davis.' *Virginia Genealogies*, pp. 338, 348, LC. Others of the Ewell connection: Jas. Ewell was 'late Sheriff' (in 1785, 1786) of Prince William County. Petition from him Nov. 6, 1790, that he had by reason of difficulty in collecting taxes in 1786 and 1787, 'paid into the Public Treasury out of his own Pockett the sums of £739.7.11 for Revenue and £81.4.9 for Certificate Taxes.' Dec. 14, 1823, Capt. Chas. Ewell presented a petition for his half pay, having enlisted as a volunteer at the age of fifteen years in 1776, shortly afterward appointed Lieutenant in the 1st Va. state regiment; in 1780, the term of his men having expired 'he reenlisted every man of his company to serve to the end of the war . . .'; was afterward appointed Major of Brigade. Never received his half pay. John Marshall over his own signature endorsed the character of Ewell, dated Dec. 19, 1823. In the first volume of Land books of Prince William County, we find in 1782, as property holders, Hannah, Solomon and Capt. Thomas Ewell. Later we find 'Majr. Ja^s. Ewell, William Lock Weems, [Mason's brother], Thomas, Charles, Bertrand and James Ewell, to which in 1798 Francis Ewell's name is added.

¹ On Dec. 6, 1812, Weems asks Carey whether he may auctioneer the books sent to Annapolis to the Legislature. And then suggests that if not, he shall purchase certain selections out of them 'if I can, (as there is *now some prospect*) get my money back from old Col^o. Ewell's Estate.' — In a letter to Paul L. Ford from J. M. Meredith of The Rectory, P. O. Stafford Co., Va., dated Jan. 21, 1899, the statement is made that the old Ewell house is situated 12 miles from Dumfries and 10 miles from Manassas. 'The house is of very old style — a chimney 8 feet wide — with old pot hooks

still hanging.' — 'That Mason Weems was trusted both as to integrity and business judgment is shown in the action of his wife's mother Charlotte, the widow of Col. Jesse Ewell, in making him one of her four executors. She died April 13, 1823. Her will was dated Mar. 12, 1823.' Hayden's *Virginia Genealogies*, p. 328, f.n., LC.

² Weems wrote, Mar. 10, 1798: 'Perhaps God may throw some good business in my way by & by, and enable me to maintain certain family pensioners which I have contracted [for] by chusing "to marry rather than do worse."' On Oct. 17, 1800, he reminded Carey that he had raised for him 1,000 dollars in twelve weeks [in *Philadelphia and New Jersey*] 'by little pamphlets.' By implications in letters, it would seem that as early as 1796 Carey and he were very deeply involved with each other. On Dec. 17, 1800, he wrote of Carey's having in 1796 brought him 'down to the very verge of perdition.' Feb. 16, 1801, he states that he has borrowed '250 dol' from his brother, presumably William. Whether Weems was really involved with the producers of his publications, or whether Carey wished to frighten him, the latter wrote to him, Sept. 23, 1801: '. . . It will be necessary if you visit us this fall, to be on your guard against an arrest, which, I have strong reason to suspect, is designed for you.' On Feb. 20, 1809, he wrote to Carey: 'I am much under a cloud — not having yet entirely p^d for my house.' Again, on Aug. 30, 1811: 'He [Mr. Langley] is honor'd by all as a very honest man but he is poor & somewhat in debt as most People are.' Dec. 8, 1812: 'I have been labouring now fifteen or 16 years for you, & you know how hard & how honestly, & after all I own very little more than a tythe of what you threw away on Conrad.' In 1814: '. . . if my ceaseless intreaties to you for a

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His children were as follows:¹

1. Frances Ewell, born May 1, 1796. Married James Ewell Heath, Mar. 12, 1812, died Jan. 31, 1813.²
2. Susan Ann, born July 7, 1798, married Richard Slade, Sept. 2, 1820, died Oct. 16, 1821.
3. Jesse Ewell, born June 2, 1799, married Nancy Otis Rickard [*or Richard*] June 23, 1818.³
4. Charlotte Ewell, born Jan. 7, 1801, married Henry C. Slade, Mar. 21, 1820, died Mar. 5, 1821.
5. Nancy Ewell, born Apr. [?] 1803, married Henry Gantt [*or Garrett*], Apr. 5, 1824, died Oct. 3, 1833.⁴

different management cou'd have prevailed I shou'd not have rank^d next to Citizen Conrad on the list of your Assassins.' In August, 1815, he wrote to Carey in regard to certain business arrangements: "'Tis a bagatelle [*to you?*]" but a bagatelle is a grand chose to me who respire near the natale solum of a beloved wife whose numerous Relatives prodigiously lazy & convivial are determin^d never to let me grow rich.' In a letter written before Oct. 3, 1815, to Carey, he says: 'After near 15 years of self starving & laborious life in y^r service, during which, thro' my hands & those of good men I have employ^d for you, I have sent you at least a Hundred thousand Dollars, I am now worth about 5 or 4.000.' And, in the same letter: 'I sold you my Life of Washington (which if properly acted [*on*] w^d have been revenue enough to my poor family) — tho' for the same reason, I went and bought in a *most evil hour*, a house in Dumfries, which, thro' M^{rs}. Weems' impolitic tho' most amiable generosity to her many & lazy Relatives, has ever since kept me [*poor?*]." Sept. 2, 1821: 'I pray you never more to send 100\$ to my family. 60 pr month is enough & 200 wd not suffice — such is the multitude & Rapacity of my Wife's Relat^{ives}]. & so unreasonably indulgent is she!'

¹ This list was sent to Paul Leicester Ford by Mason L. Weems' great-niece, Miss Elizabeth Chew Williams, of Baltimore, early in the year 1902.

² She is given in error as the fourth child in Hayden's *Virginia Genealogies*, LC.

³ Jesse Ewell Weems, it is stated in Hayden's *Virginia Genealogies*, married his cousin Rachel, a daughter of David Locke Weems [*perhaps as a second wife?*]. He at more than one time sold or delivered books for Mathew Carey. See letters, Jan. 3, 1817, and Apr. 10, 1822. He wrote and published in 1843 a pamphlet: *Reply to a Pamphlet by William A. Weaver, . . . with a Refutation of the Charges . . . against Jesse E. Weems, Hon. D. Webster, and Com. Stewart; . . . Washington*. 8vo. pp. 18. 'Shows much spirit and some acerbity, with a plentiful sprinkling of apt Biblical quotations.' LC. card catalogue. — It is stated that one of Mason L. Weems' sons was at one time in Congress, where he had the temerity to oppose continually the formidable John Randolph of Roanoke in debate. His political career, it is said, was ruined by his opponent who treated him 'with haughty reserve.' Unidentified news clipping, signed S. E. R., from Matthews Co., Va., Jan. 28, 1874, in Philadelphia, 8th edition of the *Life of Washington*, AAS.

⁴ Weems, in writing to Carey under date of May 24, 1802, speaks of having five children. This makes it probable that Nancy Ewell was born in 1802 rather than 1803. As the exact day is left in doubt in the above list, the uncertainty adds weight to this inference.

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6. Harriet Ewell, born May 7, 1804, married Rev. Jesse Chesney Feb. 22, 1826, died [?].

7. Mason Lock, born Sept. 10, 1806, married Asinath Slade, July 6, 1829, died Feb. 22, 1856.¹

8. Marion, born Dec. 12, 1808, died Jan 9, 1809.

9. Francis Marion, born Dec. 10, 1809, married Frances Ewell, died [?].²

10. Milton, born Nov. 19, 1812, died June 11, 1813.³

It will thus be seen that by precept and by practice Weems labored against race-suicide even more zealously than the famous coiner of the epithet. It seems a fatality that he should have left the moribund neighborhood of his birth, near Londontown, only to cast in his fortunes with another locality destined to decay. At that time Dumfries was a flourishing town, on the highway between Alexandria, Mt. Vernon and Richmond.⁴ It was not only the county seat of Prince William, with all the importance which was always attached in any southern community to the Court's sittings, but it had a foreign commerce, and many prosperous families lived well in its vicinity. There was a large element of Scottish lineage among its inhabitants, and Weems would thus fit in with the known clannishness of that folk.

The tides, rather than the stars, in their courses fought against the town, for as Quantico Creek — its shipping outlet to the Potomac River — silted up year by year, Dumfries and its neighborhood increasingly atrophied.⁵ The

¹ [*Died*] 'At Columbia, Texas, Feb. 22, Dr. Mason L. Weems, in the fiftieth year of his age, second son of the late Rev. Mason L. Weems, of Dumfries, Va.' with a favorable notice of him as a practitioner, and the statement that he had emigrated to Texas about 1838. *Intelligencer*, Mar. 15, 1856, *Toner Collection of Clippings*, LC.

² Descendants of Francis Marion carry on the name of Weems to this day. See *War Gazetteer* . . . Issued by the *New York Evening Post*, New York, Charles McD. Pincketts & F. Carington Weems, 1914. Maps, table, pp. 40, NYPL.

³ Weems, it is stated in error, in Hayden's *Virginia Genealogies*, left eight children, of which three daughters married but left no issue.

⁴ In *The Annual Visitor: or Almanac for 1799*, printed for John Hagerty in Baltimore [MDHS.], Dumfries is entered as one of the post towns of the United States, in a list including

only eight in Virginia, with the distance given from Wiscasset, Me., of 708 miles. See also the Atlases of the period. — Washington's itinerary took him to the town for his first night going southward, where he drank tea with his niece, Mrs. Thomas Lee, at Parke Gate near the town. See *Washington's Southern Tour, 1791*, Archibald Henderson, p. 40, LC.

⁵ L. & F. *Letter Book No. 22* contains a series of letters from Mason's nephew Elijah Weems to the Careys making excuses, etc., for delayed payments. Among others, Nov. 16, 1817, writing from Dumfries, he says, 'the inhabitants of Dumfries has [*sic*] never been so sickly as they are this fall, every member of my family has been down, but at present are much better.' — 'Nothing, however, can be more melancholy than the aspect of the whole country on Tidewater — dismantled seats, ruinous churches, fields forsaken and grown up with mournful evergreens, cedar and pine.' Letter

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merchants tried to avert this paralysis but in vain.¹ The neighboring districts attempted to have the Court removed to a more central spot. Dec. 13, 1816, there was one of the frequently renewed petitions to remove the Court house from Dumfries because of its distance from the centre of the district. Counter petition signed amongst others by Jesse, Jesse Jun^r., Charles and Bertrand Ewell and Jesse Ewell Weems. In spite of this stout resistance, the point was finally won. With the larger part of Tidewater Virginia, Dumfries fell to its doom, and being some twenty-nine miles off the railways, after their day arrived, it sank still farther.

Under the influence of what he called, in one of his books, 'that softening polishing friend, a good wife,' Weems took a large house in Dumfries 'with a Capital Room on the street for display of books. The People say I have a monstrous assortment.' See letter of July 13, 1802. His lack of success for the venture is not to be wondered at. Decaying gentlefolk, like dying trees, rarely flourish at the top.

to Josiah Quincy, Mar. 20, 1814, in *John Randolph of Roanoke*, William Cabell Bruce, Vol. I. — 'Our road lay along in sight of Mt. Vernon and was a picture of desolation — the inhabitants few, primitive and ignorant, houses deserted and going to ruin, fences down, plantations overgrown, and everything indicating a decaying country finally ruined by war. On our second day's march we passed through Dumfries, once a flourishing town and port of entry, now the most God-forsaken village I ever saw. There were large houses with tumbled down stairways, public buildings completely in ruins, more than half the houses deserted and tumbling to pieces, not one in repair and even the inhabitants, as dirty, lazy and rough they stared at us with a sort of apathetic hate, seemed relapsing into barbarism. It may be the season, or it may be the war; but for some reason this part of Virginia impresses me with a sense of hopeless decadence, a spiritless decay both of land and people, such as I never experienced before. The very dogs are curs and the women and children, with their long, blousy, uncombed hair, seem the proper inmates of the dilapidated log cabin which they hold in common with the long-nosed, lank Virginia swine.' Charles Francis Adams, Jr., Nov. 30, 1862, in *A Cycle of Adams Letters*,

Vol. I, p. 200. — Dumfries, an old Scotch trading town, once a flourishing port built on a creek running into the Potomac, to which large steamers could moor [*sic*]. This has filled up. County seat was removed to Brentsville [1822]. . . . Old Court House 'a fine brick building on a fine site, with lawn and shade trees' sold with the jail and clerk's office for \$50.00. The town was 'in its day a rival of Belhaven and Fredericksburg.' *Manassas Journal, Anniversary edition*, May 19, 1911, vsrl.

¹ As early as September 16, 1796, the Quantico Company was organized, with T[imothy]. Brundige as Clerk of the Board, and John Lawson, James Murchett and James Deneale as commissioners, for the purpose of improving 'the navigation of Quantico Creek.' *Republican Journal* (Dumfries), Sept. 16, 1796, hu. — Nov. 15, 1816, a petition to the Virginia Assembly begged that Dumfries be granted a Bank charter and stated that 'a period has existed within the last twenty-five years when her trade was little inferior to that of Alexandria and Fredericksburg' and complaining of the obstruction to her navigation (on account of the creek filling up) and the want of capital. Signed: Jesse Ewell, Jesse Ewell Jun^r., Jesse E. Weems, Alfred Ewell and many others. Another was presented on Dec. 20, 1817.

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His name is not found as a land owner until 1806¹ though he purchased house and lands in 1798 [*Records of Manassas, Virginia*], and he paid personal taxes in 1798 for the first time; amount 79 cts. on 1 white Tithes [*meaning a titthable man*] 1 Black ditto, 1 ditto above 12 and under 16 [*years of age*] and 1 Horse or Cow. The next time we find his name is in 1801 where he is entered as Mason L. Wemms; with '1 white Tythes, 2 Black above 16, 1 Horse or Mule, 1 Ordinary' when he was taxed 1.00. In 1802 this was raised to 1.42. Enough to make some grumblers of today wish themselves back in such piping times. That Weems appreciated the comparative immunity from taxation in his own country is shown in the following excerpt from his *Philanthropist* [1799?]: 'They [*the British*] tax the air above, the earth beneath, and the waters under the earth . . . they have made lately a short apoplectic stroke of ten percent ad valorem, . . . in addition to a thousand little hectic taxes besides!' P. 19.

In 1806 he is entered as owning 1 Lott, yearly rent of 60 with a tax of 94; in 1807 and 1809 the same; while in 1810 Jesse Weems Jun^r. pays 58 ('by J. Ewell's will').

In 1812 Weems paid on Land '4 Lotts of 1 each 3.70.' In the following year, he paid on the same, \$24. In 1814 he paid on the 4 'Town Lotts' in Dumfries of a yearly rental value of 6.36 (twenty acres in all). In 1816 the tax upon 'Mason Weems' property was 6.90 while after his death we find Jesse paying for the estate of M. L. Weems, taxed \$13.00 on land; and so on to 1837. These figures bear out the statement that Dumfries was not thriving.

Ever ready as an itinerant exhorter, he also accepted temporary incumbencies at Pohick and two other churches, probably in and near Dumfries, 1801-1802. Dumfries having no Episcopal Church, he probably officiated in the Court House, or perhaps on its steps, as was the custom.² Throughout his life he preached sporadically, as he went up and down through the land, his last recorded sermon found being of May 28, 1821, at Savannah. See Volume III.

Had Weems been less of an odd blend in temperament, he might possibly have succeeded as a Methodist preacher, but probably not in the Episcopal ministry. He quitted the latter only a short time before the tide turned in its favor in Maryland. To have lived through seven such lean years there, and thereafter shortly to have removed to moribund Dumfries goes to show that he was marked out for the career which he eventually followed. But his own letters, by brief allusions, prove that he was always ready and willing to exhort,

¹ See, however, *Addenda*.

please, in the forenoon.' *Journal of Nicholas*

² Leesburg, Virginia. November 17, 1775.

Cresswell, New York, 1924, p. 132, LC.

'Went to Church or Courthouse which you

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whether by the Gospels or on the subject of education and morals. On Feb. 16, 1801, he wrote to Carey: 'By much preach^g & praying to People up and down the country, I collected 300 Dol's for a Charity School. This I put in a Geo-Town bank. Nothing wou'd content you, untill you had got that, and 50 dol. below w't it now cou'd sell for. Well I must pay interest for that.' See also announcements and general advertisements, etc. by Weems, interspersed throughout his *Letters*.

APPENDIX XVIII

EARLY SOUTHERN TRAVEL

From his letters to Carey it would be thought that Weems travelled south of Virginia for the first time in 1804. But it is likely that he was in Georgia as early as 1797. On June 13 of that year there was the following announcement: 'Married, at Padan Aram [*sic*], Burke county, on Thursday the 28th ult: by the Rev. M. L. Weems, William Marbury, esq. to Miss Mary Anne Armstrong Milton.' *Augusta Chronicle*, June 13, 1797, DERL. I have been unable to identify Padan-Aran as a settlement or village, so presumably it was a plantation. Burke County is directly south of Augusta. Weems could easily have sailed down to Savannah on a coast ship, without our finding any record of it, as his letters of 1797 are few and far between. The *Century Dictionary* says that Padan-Aran, obviously from Genesis xv, v. 20, is 'probably, the designation for the flat country in northern Mesopotamia.' In modern times there are towns so named in both New Hampshire and Ohio.

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WASHINGTON AND WEEMS

Though Weems styled himself 'formerly Rector of Mount-Vernon Parish' on the title-page of his *Life of Washington* in 1808, as substantiated by his temporary incumbencies at Pohick Church, the only basis heretofore given for imputing an actual acquaintance between Washington and himself is, I believe, erroneous. For a citation often used from the former's *Diary* evidently applies to Mason's cousin, Rev. John Weems, who was ordained by Bishop White,

June 24, 1787, and was 'the servant of his but one Parish during his ministerial life of four and thirty years.' See *Bibliography*, title *II*, note 5.

That Weems fell into the posture of adulation toward Washington was in line with his temperament, and any other attitude would have been astonishing in view of the public temper at the moment of the general's death. It is still not impossible to find writers who approach the shade of our great *Pater Patriæ* hat in hand, and with a slight inclination of the spine. To his near contemporaries the divinity of dignity hedged him about more completely. The following are just a few notes bearing on this point: 'The Colonel [*Tobias Lear*, *Washington's secretary*] did me the honour to say I was the only man he ever knew to treat General Washington with frankness.' *A Tour in America*, 1798, 1799 & 1800, Richard Parkinson, London, Vol. I, p. 8, NYPL. "We have often heard it asserted," says the *Analectic Magazine*, "that Washington never smiled but once in his life." This we know not to be true . . . ' *Washington City Weekly Gazette*, Nov. 16, 1816, LC. To an unsigned letter addressed to Washington in the *Southern Literary Messenger*, Vol. II, 1837, p. 306, vstL., there is an editorial introduction, regretting its 'language of adulation,' but writing *Him* with a capital letter! 'Out of the social, genial, card-playing, fox-hunting Washington, Weems manufactured the sanctimonious wooden image, the Sunday school lay figure, which Washington remains for most of us, in spite of all the learned efforts of Owen Wister, Senator Lodge and Paul Leicester Ford.' *Legendary and Myth-making Process in Histories of the American Revolution*, Sydney G. Fisher, in *American Philosophical Society Proceedings*, Vol. LI, April-June, 1912, p. 66, NYPL.

That Weems fabricated whenever he believed that he could thus heighten his effects has been generally believed. Horry's consternation¹ over the handling of his Marion material is one example, while a discriminating reader may suspect the apocryphal in other instances. The controversy over this has been intense where the *Life of Washington* and the cherry-tree tale are concerned, and still has sporadic outbreaks — generally about February 22nd annually.² As op-

¹ Small wonder, when that bluff and tough old warrior is made to say of Marion's eloquence: 'On me, who almost adored Marion for his Godlike virtues, its effects were past describing. My bosom heaved with emotions unutterable, while the tear of delicious admiration swelled in my eyes.' *Life of Marion*, 1818, p. 215.

² Thus in his lecture entitled *The Personal Washington*, my kinsman, William Webster

Ellsworth, refers to a letter written to Prof. Yates Snowden of the State University of North Carolina by Rev. J. D. McCullough in 1891. In that letter the statement is definitely made that on being asked by Bishop Gadsden where he had learned the 'hatchet story,' Weems replied: 'I just made it up,' adding: 'Why isn't it a good thing for the boys? It teaches a moral lesson better than any fable.' I leave the decision to others, who are as likely to make it

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posed to Mr. R. T. Haines Halsey's expert judgment upon a mug, dated 1776¹ [see *Bibliography*, title 10, note 2], many men have hammered one more nail of indignant incredulity into that helpless small-boy lay-figure, while others still merely enjoy it as a 'source of innocent merriment.'² Charles Lamb openly admitted that he preferred to 'matter of fact men' those of *lie*. The acridity of some of the criticisms levelled at this diverting tale which has been heard 'half round the world' reminds one of John Fiske's comment upon Capt. John Smith's detractors: 'To set him down as an arrant braggadocio would seem to some critics essential to their reputation for sound sense.'³ That Weems did not apparently test his recitals on 'the marines' is undeniable. On the contrary, we can picture him as writing with his mind's eye cocked on a group of supposititious readers consisting of the immature of every age. So meticulous and unblushingly detailed are the reported conversations throughout his most famous historical romance that my brother suggested Weems must have hired 'a stenographer to dog Washington's footsteps' from early infancy to the grave. But that, in the author's opinion, would, in Gilbert's happy phrase, merely 'lend artistic verisimilitude to a bald and unconvincing narrative.'⁴ The truth seems to be that there are few who possess those 'four indispensable qualifications . . . possessed by all the critics whom the world esteems great — insight, equipment, disinterestedness and sympathy,'⁵ and to look for a calm and balanced résumé of Washington's career from a volume hastily issued to catch the tide of popular emotion following his death shows a lack of perspective. 'Nothing . . .' of this sort ' . . . was meant seriously

according to their temperament as Weems is reputed to have written by his. — 'The business of acquiring what passes for knowledge is not altogether a question of accuracy, although on the matter of accuracy itself there is not a little to be said. Every historical scholar, as well as every lawyer, knows that one of the most difficult things in the world is to be certain about a fact.' *Some Neglected Aspects of the Revolutionary War*, Charles Kendall Adams, in *Atlantic Monthly*, Vol. 82, Aug., 1898, p. 175.

¹ See frontispiece to Vol. II.

² 'My Pa ain't like George Washington's Pa.

When George cut down the cherry tree
And said he done it, his pa he
Took him in his arms and cried,
He was so glad George hadn't lied.

But —

My pa ain't like George Washington's pa.
When I cut down our cherry tree,
And said I did, pa walloped me:
And I went up to bed and cried,
And, golly, how I wished I'd lied!
Because —

My pa ain't like George Washington's pa.'

[Anon.] *Life*, February, 1904.

³ *Old Virginia and Her Neighbors*, John Fiske, p. 81, LC.

⁴ Tomocomo (a feathered chief in Pocahontas' party to England) had been instructed to 'observe carefully the king and queen and God, and report on their personal appearance.' *Ibid.*, p. 173, LC.

⁵ Review by Brander Matthews in *New York Times*, Apr. 9, 1922.

for scientific exposition, any more than the Sermon on the Mount was meant for political Economy.’¹ ‘No book is celebrated without deserving it for some quality. . . .’² And the wide currency which Weems’ vaporings early gained was probably the source of the intense antagonism which his books aroused. Latterly, critics have taken him less seriously or ponderously, recognizing his failings, his foibles and his follies without necessarily damning him, elegantly or otherwise. The fair estimate is to take him for what he was, a born *raconteur*, whose so-called biographies were written as disguised Sunday-school tales where fact blended into fiction, and homiletics spilled over into chronicles. ‘The Rev. Henry Ware asked Miss Sedgwick in 1834, at the height of her popularity, for narratives “between a tale and a tract, which should provide illustrations of Christianity.”’³

In the same spirit Weems wrote to Carey, Mar. 21, 1811: ‘I want to *Enlighten*, to *dulcify* & Exalt Human Nature — by GOOD BOOKS.’ March, 1818: ‘My mind is made up never to exert my *own* labours in subscriptioneering for any but books of a MORAL & Religious nature. You know that all my scribblings have been of that character — because I have always thought that these lead to views, & these spring those affections which contribute most to sweeten the tempers, to ennoble the actions, & to make safe & delightful the Society & Converse of Men.’

To judge his ‘effusions’ fairly it should be borne in mind that they were generally written at odd moments, in the confusion of southern hostelries, after days of inclemency and fatigue on the road. Their inspiration was often evidently a new anecdote culled from a chance acquaintance, told and noted over ‘a glass of mulled wine.’ After adolescence, ever to have thought of these books seriously as biography or history shows the parlous state of letters in our country. The fulminations against them remind one of that line in *Hudibras*: ‘but why should I discharge a cannon at a fly?’

‘*Le style c’est l’homme.*’ More than usually is this true of Weems. His editings, writings and compilations clearly show his tastes, his talents and his limitations as a man.⁴ ‘Reckless in statement, indifferent to facts and research, his books are full of popular heroism, religion and morality, which you at first

¹ Rousseau, John Morley, Vol. I, p. 177, NYPL.

² *Letters of William James*, Edited by his Son, Vol. I, p. 283, NYPL.

³ *Books for Children*, Algernon Tassin, in *Cambridge History of American Literature*, 1918, Vol. II, p. 397, NYPL.

⁴ Yet in a day when even a savant and

doctor of national renown was said to be tintured ‘with the Rosa Mathilda style’ [Samuel L. Mitchill; see *Reminiscences*, J. W. Francis, 1850, p. 11, NYPL.], and in which an ‘authoress could advertise *The Milliner and the Millionaire* [Mrs. Rebecca Hicks, of Virginia, author of *The Lady Killer*], some of Weems’ sins should be attributed to his period.

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call trash and cant and then, finding it extremely entertaining, you declare with a laugh, as you lay down the book, what a clever rogue! . . . He is the most delightful mixture of the Scriptures, Homer, Virgil and the back woods. Everything rages, and storms, slashes and tears. At the passage of the stamp act "the passion of the people flew up 500 degrees above blood heat." . . . It is in vain that the historians, the exhaustive investigators, the learned and the accurate rail at or ignore him. He is inimitable. He will live forever. He captured the American people. He was the first to catch their ear. He said exactly what they wanted to hear. He has been read a hundred times more than all the other historians and biographers of the Revolution put together. . . . He was a myth-maker of the highest rank and skill and the greatest practical success.' *Legendary and Myth-making Process in Histories of the American Revolution*, Sydney G. Fisher, in *American Philosophical Society Proceedings*, Vol. LI, April - June, 1912, p. 65, NYPL.

As Paul L. Ford wrote: 'Weems is as typical a figure of the South [*of his day*] as Cotton Mather is of New England. . . . He did not lie for hours on his study floor, groaning over the fact that humanity was doomed to eternal damnation, . . . nor fan a belief in witchcraft among an orderly and highly superstitious people, but by painting crime with lurid colors he tried to lead the lawless and ignorant from their lives of excess. . . . His tracts were whips with which he lashed the brutal or self-indulgent classes of the south.'

His output was picturesque, racy, and up to the latter years of his life, rarely dull. To secure his desired effects he might even be called a stylist of skill. For, as William James wrote in his *Letters*: 'I don't care how incorrect language may be if it only has fitness of epithet, energy and clearness.'

So, about one hundred years before the World War Weems coined the epithet for the private soldier, now so generally adopted, because so apt, 'mere fighting machines, venal wretches, who for pay and plunder, had degraded the man into the brute, the Briton into the buccaneer. . . .' [*Life of Marion*, 1818, pp. 231-232.] Throughout his letters we cannot but be struck with his untrammelled spontaneity, which rarely flagged, year in and year out, while in his published writings we find fresh mintings of words or phrases now in common use: 'best-selling book' [Nov. 11, 1819]; 'quit' without a change of tense, as we hear it or read it in the journalese of our day [Jan. 12, 1804]; 'Sky scrapers of Health and Spirits' [Apr. 22, 1820]; shrewd comments on art serving nature in 'her common every day Dishabille' [Nov. 2, 1819]; 'republics take the best care of people's lives and wives, children and chattels' [*True Patriot*, p. 47]; 'We did not choose the books according to congruities and correspondencies' [Mar. 15, 1815]; '*National prejudices* ought to be *laughed* out of the world'

MASON LOCKE WEEMS

[*Life of Washington*, 1806, p. 25]; 'Reason unbullied — conscience secure. Happy Americans! this is our case. . . . The fanatic is here, but he has no faggot, and the lambs of other flocks may feed undisturbed.' [*True Patriot*, p. 36.]

APPENDIX XX

LAST LABORS AND DEATH

In January, 1825, Weems wrote of having been in Carey's service 'near thirty years.' [See *Letters*.] It had been an arduous existence, and even in earlier letters it may be seen that constant travel, with its vicissitudes, had at times affected his health. Toward the end of his life, these difficulties made themselves felt increasingly. On May 2, 1820, he wrote to Carey, when urging a stage in place of a gig: '1. The driver (on my own expense) w^d save me the fatigue of driving. 2^d by the help of a swinging Cot I shou^d enjoy repose that w^d refresh & strengthen me for Business.' June 30, 1821: 'My friends here [*Charleston, S. C.*] tell me to make my Will & order measure[s] of my Coffin before I set out — the country between [*Charleston and Walterborough*] being all made up of bogs & swamps & dens of death. But I feel a fearlessness about it, that is, to my mind tantamount to a good passport.' A touch of his persistent optimism! Dec. 13, 1821: 'The day has been most dreadfully rainy; however I moved about a great deal to find wagons to carry on our boxes to Halifax & Greensboro.' Jan. 10, 1822: 'I wish you w^d send me a little keg of apples — about 1/2 bushel. They may preserve health. you have them dog cheap in Philad^a, but here they are as dear as Oranges.' Apr. 10, 1822: 'The heat [*in Savannah*] relaxes the fibres prodigiously. If I get through the Summer with life, I shall be right thankful.' And in the same letter: 'If M^{rs}. Weems will but consent, I will assuredly spend the whole summer & autumn &c here till June 12 month. But I fear she will cry very much if I only hint it to her. I shall suffer too — but, thank God, I have not long to labour & suffer now. A man at 63 must soon hear the Boatswains call thank God I am not afraid.' May 9, 1822, from 'Milledgville.' 'What can be done by an old man in this scalding climate?'

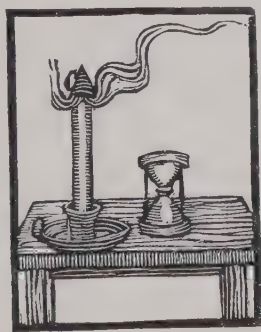
Four months before his death, on Jan. 25, 1825, he spoke of his own fatal malady as 'a strangury,' and the few remaining letters of that year show that he suffered greatly for many weeks before the end came, so far from home and family. His remains were buried at Beaufort, but later were removed, it is

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generally said, and were interred in a corner of the grounds of Belle Air. The following obituary was probably written by one of his many southern friends:

'Died in Beaufort South Carolina, on the 23rd of May last, after a long and painful indisposition, the Rev. Mason L. Weems, of Dumfries, Va. well known as the author of the *Life of Washington*, and various other popular works which have passed through numerous editions, and have had a most extensive circulation. He was a man of very considerable attainments both as a scholar, a physician and divine. His philanthropy and benevolence were unbounded. Early in life he liberated his patrimonial slaves from conscientious motives, and voluntarily commenced a career of incessant bodily toil, to disseminate moral and religious books in various remote and destitute portions of the country. — From Pennsylvania to the frontiers of Georgia was the principal theatre of his indefatigable labors, and it is supposed on good authority, that in the course of his life he had been instrumental in circulating nearly a million of copies of the scriptures, and other valuable works. — That in this laborious calling he was principally actuated by an expanded philanthropy, is proved by his entire neglect of the means of accumulating a large fortune and dying in comparative poverty. His very eccentricities, (for failings they could not be called) were the eccentricities of genius and benevolence. He finally fell a martyr to his arduous exertions to do good, and died in the full enjoyment of faith, and a blessed hope of immortality, leaving behind, a numerous and afflicted family.'

Reporter, Warrenton, N. C., July 8, 1825, 1c. Also printed in *National Journal*, July 7, 1825, *Toner Collection of Clippings*, 1c.



ADDENDA

Material on the following names may be found in the *Mathew Carey Account Books* (in manuscript), AAS. As those are now in process of thorough indexing, it has been thought unnecessary to give specific references below except where an item was unusually quaint, or where it has been deemed desirable to call attention to one specific item among many. Where only a name is listed, without comment, the implication is that, though there may have been many references to it in the *Account Books*, none seemed to be of sufficient interest to quote, or to add to the information already available here in these volumes. A few items only will be found with their appropriate context in the *Letters*, but the *Account Books* were not brought to notice in time to permit such inclusion in most instances.

The following does not refer to Weems, and is printed here only to throw light on the terms given by Carey to another agent—to be read in connection with Vol. III, p. 424, footnote 3: ‘This may certify that I have agreed with Mathew Carey, esquire of Philadelphia, as an agent to procure subscribers for, and deliver, such works as he may deem expedient to entrust to my care, for the space of twelve months. And, in consideration of which services, I am to receive ten dollars per week; said Carey paying all expenses. The salary to commence on Monday the 18th September 1815. Philadelphia 13th Sept. 1815’ Vol. 28: 4016.

Abercrombie, James.

Adams, John.

Adams, Samuel.

Bailey, Francis and Robert.

Bailey, Lydia (or Eleanor).

On Sept. 17, 1808 Mrs. Lydia R. Bailey billed Carey ‘To foulding and stiching 12 hund. and fifty pamphlets life of Maroy Finly @ 37½ pr. hind, — \$4..68’. Vol. 22: 1084. A similar item of Oct. 14, 1808 is contained in Vol. 22: 1212. As this Mrs. Bailey did much work for Carey and printed for Weems the 1812 edition of his *Gambling*, it seems likely that it was she who was referred to in Weems’ letter of Jan. 5, 1810. It is possible, however, that he meant Mrs. Eleanor Bailey, who rendered bills to Carey for folding and stitching both the ‘Drown’d wife’ and the ‘Gamblers’. Vol. 29: 4297, 4298.

Baine, John.

Bartgis, M[*atthias*].

Beckley, John.

Bioren, John.

Blair, James.

Brown, Andrew.

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Brundige, Timothy.

Brynberg, Peter.

Buchanan, George.

'1 George Buchanan' was listed at 25 cents in a bill of Baltimore Sales of 1808. Vol. 22 : 1228. Whether this name applies to an author or to the name of a book or pamphlet has not been ascertained. There was an American George Buchanan, 1763-1808, who studied medicine at Edinburgh and was an officer of the Royal Physical Society there before 1785. See *Medical Annals of Maryland*, E. F. Cordett, Baltimore, 1903, AAS. He was the author of *An Oration upon the Moral and Political Evil of Slavery*, NYPL. It is always possible that amongst Weems' clientele in the South there were a few who, even in that day, would have been willing to read polemics on the subject of slavery.

Cameron, Angus.

Campbell, Robert.

Carey, Eleanor.

Carey, Henry.

Carey, James.

Carey, Maria.

Chambers, Alexander.

Bookseller or general commission agent of Trenton, N. J.

Charles, William.

Christie, William.

Of Baltimore. Had dealings with [Mrs.] Fanny Weems through Timothy Brundige. Vol. 22 : 1201.

Christie, William.

Of Philadelphia. Bills rendered to Carey for proof reading.

Clay, Edward W.

Cochran, Mrs. Ann.

Cochran, Robert.

Coghlan, John.

Conrad, John.

Conrad, Michael.

In December, 1798 Michael Conrad rendered a statement of account to Mason L. Weems for various processes of binding 'Burkett . . . Immortal Mentor . . . Dodd on Death . . . Thomsons Seasons'. Vol. 14 : 4922. This item, discovered too late for entry at its appropriate place in the *Letters*, would seem to indicate that the 'Mr. Conrad' alluded to in Weems' letter of Aug. 3, 1796, and subsequent ones, was Michael, and not John or Moses, as first suggested. See especially Weems' letter of Nov. 11, 1798.

Cottom & Stewart.

Coxe, William.

Crukshank, James.

ADDENDA

Desilver, Robert.

Bills rendered for bookbinding and stitching to Carey.

Dickinson, Abel.

Dobson, Thomas.

'Bookseller & Stationer at the New Stone House in Second Street below Market Street the Seventh door above Chesnut Street.' Vol. 3 : 742. An account of Carey, Stewart & Co. in 1792 with him refers to his 'own Encyclop^a.' Vol. 1 : 177.

Duane, William.

Durell, William.

Ellwood, John.

Carey was sometimes indebted to him for 'freight from Alexandria'. Vol. 14 : 4962; Vol. 20 : 13.

Gaine, Hugh.

Gales, Joseph.

Grammar, John.

Most of the many statements of account with him spell his name 'Grammer', as did Weems frequently.

Hagerty, John.

Hand, Caleb or John.

Both were apparently captains of ships, Caleb often signing for money received for John.

Harrall, George.

Hazlehurst, Isaac, & Sons.

Heath, Thomas.

Henderson, Robert.

A paper dealer of Philadelphia.

Hill, George.

Hoff, J[ohn].

Hoffman, Jacob.

Hogan, David.

Hollingsworth, Levi, & Son.

Carey paid them, on Dec. 11, 1804, \$50. for 'Fr^t. From Christiana Bridge 1 Box'. Vol. 19 : 8544.

Hopkins, George F.

Hopkins, John.

Of Richmond. He evidently took in subscriptions for Carey's *Columbian Museum*. Vol. 2 : 402.

Hyde, George.

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Johnson, Benjamin and Jacob.

Jones, M[*ihra*].

Kennedy, James.

Kimber & Conrad.

Kimber & Sharpless.

King, F. C.

Oct. 10, 1797 delivered Five Dollars to D. Robertson and a week later Three Dollars, both 'on Acct of Mr. M. Carey.' Vol. 13:4735. Perhaps the 'King' of 'Moore & King' frequently referred to by Weems. See *Letters*, Vol. II, Aug. 3, 1796.

King, Rufus.

Kite, Benjamin & Thomas.

Kollock, Shepard.

Langley, William.

Lea (Isaac) & Wilson.

Leiper, Thomas.

Lithgow (Alexander) & Hunter.

There are statements of account in 1798 between Carey and Lithgow & Hunter — sometimes with Weems as intermediary — for various items of books and stationery, one signed by Alexander Lithgow, Jr. Freight on books from Alexandria is also mentioned.

Lovegrove, James.

MacRae, Duncan.

Of Fayetteville. Vol. 28:4230. 'Richmond Jany 17th 1815 Received of Mr Carey fourteen dollars 60/100 for waggonage of a Box from Phil^a marked Duncan M^cRae . . . left with by mistake of the Waggoner . . . Jenks & Billings' Vol. 28:4059.

Martin, Lenox (uncle and nephew).

Both certified to the accuracy of a list of books returned to Carey in March [18-?] because, as explained by the uncle, 'I am about to remove to the upper End of this State, and I dont know that I should have any prospect of selling the Books'. This statement was addressed to 'Mess^{rs}. Carey & Weems'. Vol. 19:9109.

Matthews, John.

Marshall, William.

Rendered a bill for correcting one of Carey's editions of the *Bible*. Vol. 16:6864.

Maxwell, Hugh.

Maxwell, Robert.

Melish, John.

Meriwether, James.

ADDENDA

Ormrod, J[ohn].

Requested Carey to send a copy of 'Jeffersons Notes. I will come round with Darwin as soon as my hurry is over'. Vol. 14: 5222. At the 'Literary Fair Sales made on account of J Ormrod Decem 11th 1802' included such books as 'Mountain Girl', 'Triumphs of Temper', and 'Whole duty of Woman'. Vol. 17: 7374.

Owens, William.

'Mr Mathew Carey In C/C with William Owens Cr 1813 . . . Books delivered to Mr Mason L. Weems . . . 1814 . . . 7 Sets Universal History entered to the credit of C. P. Wayne by the direction of Mr Weems'. Vol. 29: 4536. Possibly the Dr. Owens referred to in Weems' letter of Sept. 27, 1815.

Pearson, Captain.

An account with Samuel Pleasants, Jr. in 1804 mentions a consignment of '3 boxes bibles to subscrs Nos 2. 3. 6 per Capt Pearson'. Vol. 19: 9126.

Pleasants, Samuel.

His accounts mention sundry dealings with Weems. Vol. 14: 5265, 5267.

Postly, Col. John.

In 1790 he paid Carey twenty-four dollars as an advance for 'thirteen copies of Brown's self-interpreting bible'. Vol. 5: 1590.

Prichard, William.

Many references, only one of which spells the name with a 't'.

Priestley, Joseph.

A statement of his account with Carey mentions '92 Volumes of Voltaire . . . Gregory's Christian Church'. Vol. 16: 6541.

Riddle, Joseph.

Robertson or Robinson, Duncan.

The *Account Books* do not solve the question of the possible identity of these two names. See *Index to Letters*. Robertson is most frequently mentioned, yet there is one bill between Carey and Jesse Sharples, dated Philadelphia, Nov. 6, 1799, in which both are included: 'To Merchandize deliver'd Duncan Robertson . . . To Ditto Duncan Robinson'. Vol. 15: 5989. This might, of course, be a mere book-keeping error. Doubt on that score is raised in turn, however, by a bill of Oct. 2, 1800 to Carey from Robertson & Coghlan for certain items of binding. Vol. 15: 5837. This firm is not mentioned in the *Letters*, yet the firm of Wallace & Coghlan does appear therein in 1802 as binders (p. 239), while Wallace is mentioned by Weems in 1801 as the successor to 'Robinson' (p. 212 and *f.n.*). It may be pertinent to note that the *Philadelphia Directory for 1797* [AAS.] lists 'Robertson, Duncan, book-binder, Hoffman's alley.' and also 'Robinson, Duncan, labourer, between 115 and 117, north front Street.'

Robinson, Joseph.

Ross, William.

Rush, Dr. Benjamin.

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Schulz, John.

‘Mathew Carey Esq^r. in a/ct. with William Langley . . . 1807 . . . Mar. 21. By books left with W. Langley by M^r. Weems as pr. invoice of John Schulz. & C^o. . . . 1 Life of Washington.’ The conjunction of his name with that of Langley of Camden, S. C., suggests that this is the John Schulz referred to in Weems’ letter of Mar. 3, 1808.

Shoemaker, Abraham.

Small, A[braham].

Smith, Mary.

Steele, John & James.

Paper makers of Philadelphia.

Stewart, Peter.

Swords, T. & J.

Tanner, Benjamin.

Thomas, John V.

Thornton, Dr. Thomas.

Tiebout, Cornelius.

Trumball.

Carey owed Sam Galter for ‘a p^r of Burnish^d Gold frame . . . to M^r. Trumballs Print. . . .’ Vol. 14: 5317.

Wallace, John.

In 1804 and 1805 he bound *Laws of the United States* and various other works for Carey.

Warner, Benjamin.

Warner & Hanna.

Wayne, Caleb P.

Webster, Charles R. and George.

Weems, Elijah.

Weems, Fanny (Mrs. Mason Locke).

Weems, Jesse.

Weems, Mason Locke.

Weston, Henry.

Wharton, Charles Henry.

Wilson, J[ames].

Woodhouse, William.

Woodward, William.

Wyeth, John.

ERRATA

- P. 38 The title in footnote 1 should read '*Constitution*' without an 's'.
- P. 95 Footnote 1, the reference in parentheses properly applies to *Hunter's Sacred Biography, Bibliography*, title 253.
- P. 305 Footnote 1 is in error, the Lucas referred to in the letter of Dec. 9, 1820 being undoubtedly Fielding Lucas of Baltimore. The only John Lucas mentioned in the *Letters* here printed was of Sparta, Ga.
- P. 370 The book quoted in the sixth line of text under the heading 'Williamina Weems' should read *Six Centuries of the Moores of Fawley*.
- P. 423 Running head should read 'Appendix XV'.
- P. 432 Delete footnote 1, with its reference in text.
- Index* The subscription paper for Scott's Family Bible on pp. 239-240 has not been indexed, but it contains a long list of commanders' names.

Under 'Almanacs', 'Dr. Franklin's' should have been listed under WEEMS, MASON LOCKE, Works: Almanacs.

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